



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

A Glimpse into Noe Valley's Secret Gardens

Beautiful Back Yards on Display in Friends' Fundraiser

By Erin O'Briant

You know who you are: flower-lovers who peek over fences and around corners to catch a glimpse of the neighborhood's gorgeous secret gardens. Thanks to the first Noe Valley Garden Tour sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley on Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., garden enthusiasts can gain entry into six of the area's most delightful hidden gardens while raising money to make Noe Valley even more beautiful.

Tour participants will get to see a lush hillside garden, a flower-vegetable garden that was cultivated using a modified version of the "French intensive" method, a garden designed to attract butterflies and birds, and a cutting garden filled with roses that was developed to be child- and dog-resistant. The half-acre garden at the 30th Street Senior Center will be on display, as will a garden with a gazebo and a few other surprises, according to tour organizer and Friends of Noe Valley President Richard May.

An avid gardener, May is full of enthusiasm for each of the gardens in the tour lineup. "You stare out at this patch of greenery—it's intense, it's like a tropical garden with spots of bright color," May says of the Asian-influenced hillside garden on 23rd Street between Noe and Castro streets owned by Rob Evans and Terry Micheau. "And every once in a

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On Saturday, June 10, the Noe Valley Garden Tour invites you to walk through six enchanting neighborhood gardens, including an Asian-inspired hillside garden cultivated by Rob Evans and Terry Micheau. The mondo grass surrounding the paths is 20 years old. Photo by Beverly Thorp

Neighborhood Blanketed with Guesthouses

And We Have a Few Cozy Bed-and-Breakfasts, Too

By Pat Rose

For Noe Valley residents, one of the perennial joys of summer is entertaining the flood of family and friends who come from far and wide to sample life in Baghdad by the Bay. But what if your guest room is now a nursery for your newborn babe, or your studio apartment is just too tiny to accommodate visitors?

One alternative is to have your guests nestle in at a neighborhood guesthouse. They'll be close, but not too close. And when you find yourself out of breath from being a tour guide, you can relax knowing your visitors are strolling down 24th Street, taking in the shops and cafés.

A recent sweep by the *Voice* shows that Noe Valley offers an eclectic mix of lodgings: a studio with easy access for grandparents, European-style B&Bs, fully furnished flats that welcome children, or a quiet cottage for that romantic getaway. Most offer small kitchens for do-it-yourself cooking. But several serve a bountiful breakfast.

If your visitors are bringing a car, be sure to tell them to ask their guesthouse proprietor for suggestions about the best streets to park. (Only one place in our survey affords private parking.) You might also remind them that public transit is a practical choice. In fact, most kids see the J-Church streetcar as a roller-coaster ride.

As for their sleeping arrangements,

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College-bound students (front, left to right) Dante Lauteri, Kyle Ruiz, Miguel Ramirez, and Joshua Thierry are ready to play ball with Adam Snow (rear) and other counselors at Boys Hope Girls Hope, a residential program now housed in a St. Philip's Church building on 24th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Former Convent Becomes a Haven For Teen Boys

Boys Hope Girls Hope Helps At-Risk Youths Excel

By Lorraine Sanders

Reymark Renigen, 13, and Joshua Thierry, 14, do not like rules, especially stupid ones. Bedtimes, for example, are stupid. The rule about not sitting on the coffee table? Also stupid. And not being able to play video games during the week? If you guessed stupid, you guessed right.

"Ask them if they like cheese with their *whine*," prompts Mark Ryan, program director for the San Francisco chapter of Boys Hope Girls Hope, located on 24th Street near Diamond in a three-story building that once housed Catholic nuns. A dramatic statue of the Virgin Mary just inside the front door and the convent's chapel—replete with stained-glass windows—are reminders of the building's

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Botanical Mural Graces Noe Valley



The cement retaining wall at Church and 22nd streets under the Theresa Mahler Children's Center provided an expansive canvas of 2,750 square feet for a mural by award-winning artist Mona Caron. An "unveiling" party will be held on Saturday, June 17. *Photos by Jack Tipple*

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Lisa Thompson 415.701.2605



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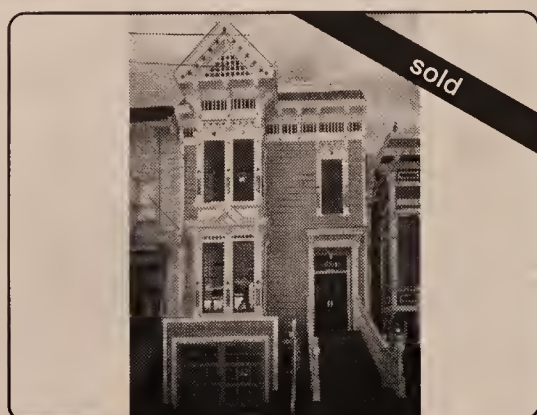


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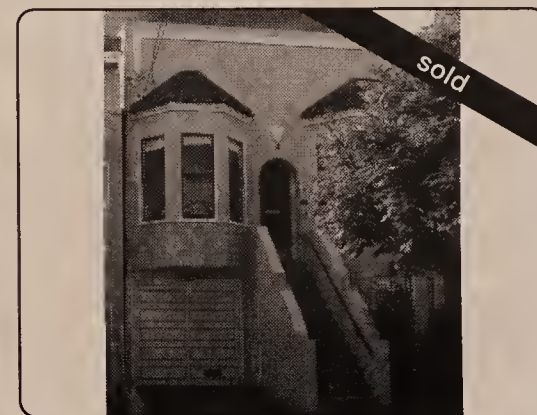


Noe Valley

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Noe Valley

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Noe Valley

\$1,150,000

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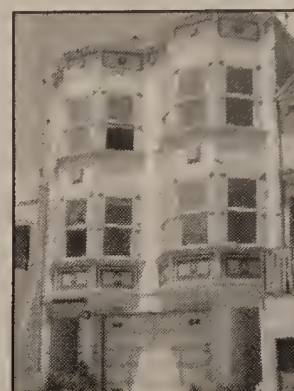
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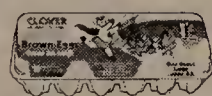
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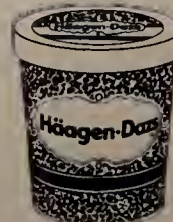
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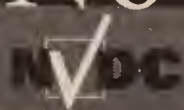


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Noe Valley Democratic Club

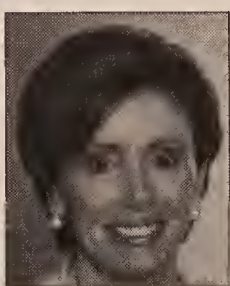


June 6th Election Endorsements

State and Federal Candidates & Initiatives



US Senate
Dianne Feinstein



US Congress, 8th District
Nancy Pelosi



Governor
Phil Angelides



Lt. Governor
Jackie Speier



State Assembly, District 13
Mark Leno



Attorney General
Jerry Brown



Insurance Commissioner
Cruz Bustamante



Superintendent of
Public Instruction
Jack O'Connell



Secretary of State
Debra Bowen



Treasurer
Bill Lockyer



State Senate, District 8
Mike Nevin

Controller — No Endorsement

Prop 81	Library Construction and Renovation Bond	Yes
Prop 82	Public Preschool Education Tax on Incomes over \$400,000 for individuals, \$800,000 for coup	Yes

Local Candidates & Initiatives

Democratic County Central Committee



Rafael Mandelman



Scott Wiener



Laura Spanjian



Leslie Katz



Gerry Crowley



David Campos



Holli Thier



Michael Goldstein



Robert Haaland



Bill Barnes



Sue Bierman



Joseph Julian

Superior Court Judge



Lillian Sing

Prop A	Additional Funding for Homicide Prevention Services	Yes
Prop B	Eviction Disclosure Ordinance	No Recommendation
Prop C	Appointing Elected Officials to the Transbay Joint Powers Autho	No Recommendation
Prop D	Zoning Changes to Limit Services at Laguna Honda Hospital and Other Residential Health Care Facilities	No

The Noe Valley Democratic Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:30pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street

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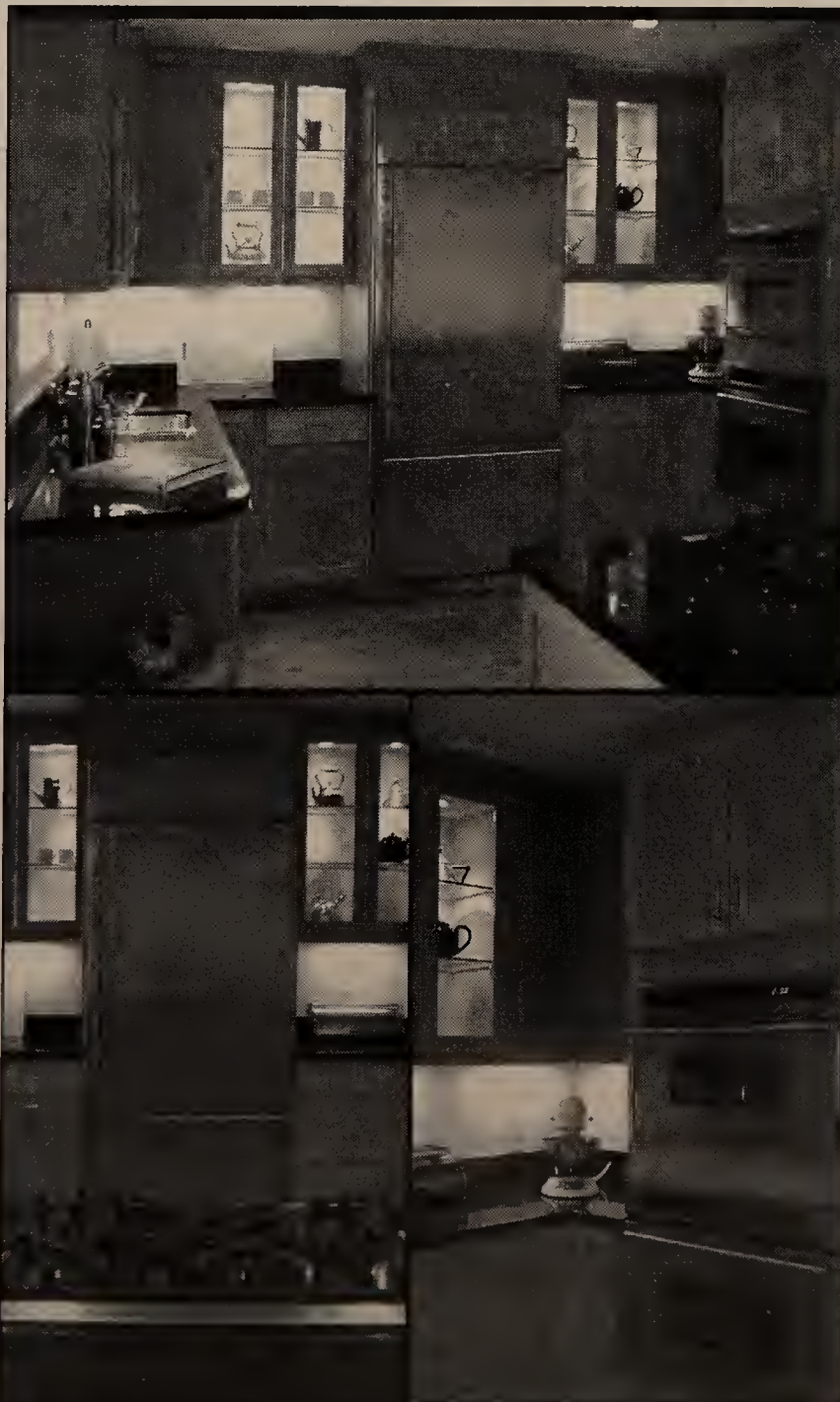
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Field of Dreams

Dear *Noe Valley Voice*, Friends, and Neighbors:

I was puzzled after reading your "Noe's Parks Better Than Most, But Still Need Renovation" article in the May 2006 issue. Like Olga Milan-Howells, I was surprised to learn that a recent survey gave an A grade to the playground at Upper Noe Recreation Center. I used to go to the park, but just found it too unsafe and dirty.

After attending a Friends of NVRC (Noe Valley Recreation Center) meeting, I learned that the criteria used to grade the park was developed by the Neighborhood Parks Council in conjunction with the city's Recreation and Park Department based on a survey created by the National Program for Playground Safety. After I completed my own audit using their form, I would say our park scored a negative on 17 out of 24 criteria on the playground report card. (For example, I answered "no" to: Are the platform guardrails securely in place? Supporting structure securely anchored? Equipment free of rust, corrosion, or rotting? Playground free of hazardous materials?)

The good news is that our park will soon begin a large-scale renovation. After it's done, I hope we can bring back some of the spirit we enjoyed in years past. I remember walking down Sanchez Street, my baby in the stroller, to meet up with other infants and toddlers (and parents and caregivers) at the park. Around 10:30 a.m., everyone would set up chairs in a half-circle in anticipation of the arrival of Jim the Musician. As soon as Jim started to strum "The Wheels on the Bus" on his guitar, all the children would get up, clap, dance, and sing along, with huge smiles on their faces. After music time, the kids would ride on the tricycles, climb on the structures, go down slides, or have a tea party inside the play houses. All of

LETTERS 39¢

these amenities were available in the indoor gym, which kept us dry on rainy days.

On nice days, there would be kids swinging on the swings, building sand sculptures, or running and climbing on the play structures in their bare feet. Lou would be shouting to his tennis students, "Nice shot!" Sometimes in the afternoon, teenagers would have a friendly game of hoops in the basketball gym. On Wednesdays, you could see seniors playing bingo. In the distance, we'd see happy dogs chasing after tennis balls or wrestling their pals in the dog run....

But I also have new dreams for the park. The recreation center building has so much potential. The stage with the luxurious velvet curtains has been neglected, but I see great possibilities. Wouldn't it be nice to see the kids dress up and put on a show for their parents? I can imagine applauding for a children's choir. Or how about a dinner theater where the actors perform *Fiddler on the Roof* or *My Fair Lady* while food is being served at tables covered in white linen?

I can see a quiet room with puzzles, small toys, cozy cushions, and books for those children who may need some time alone before getting back to playing in the ball pit with their friends. I want to see the arts and crafts room filled with toddlers squishing play dough, finger painting bright colors onto rolls of paper, or cutting and gluing construction paper. I'd like to see all the old broken toys replaced by new or used toys in good condition. I imagine older children learning how to cook in a better equipped kitchen. I can visualize the neglected patch of grass and weeds outside the kitchen as an organic garden where children can learn about where their food comes from. The field will host countless baseball games. We'll have picnic tables, benches, and a safer playground for the kids. We'll have a wonderful restroom with kid-sized toilets and sinks. Last but not least, our new park will stay safe and clean with the help of our friends and neighbors.

The park and recreation center is scheduled to close in July for the 18-month renovation. I look forward to rejoining this community as soon as it reopens.

Christina Chyan
Member, Friends of Noe Valley
Recreation Center

P.S. For more information on how you can help our recreation center be the best park it can be, contact us at FriendsOfNVRC@yahoogroups.com.

Playground Report Card Mystifying

Editor:

Regarding the Upper Noe Recreation Center, I was shocked at your report that the Neighborhood Parks Council gave our park an A. As a close neighbor and user of this park, I would rate it a D minus. As it happens, the online report from the Neighborhood Parks Council actually gives the park 72 to 78 percent ratings on the various components that are considered. Even with "grade inflation," I don't know how or why your reporter translated this to an A.

It is also somewhat frustrating that much of the maintenance work at this and other Noe Valley parks is being performed by our neighbors, and Rec and Park takes the credit. It would seem Rec and Park is more than happy to do less as the neighbors and taxpayers do more.

Neil Mosher
Via e-mail

Editor's Reply: Our story was based on a Feb. 11 survey and report released by the Neighborhood Parks Council. In May,

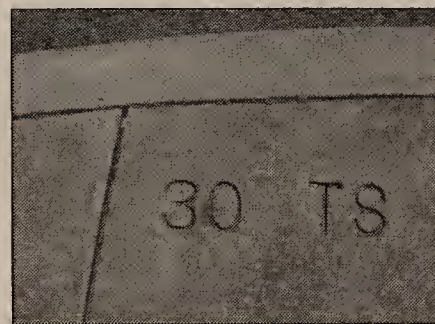
the report and the A grade for Upper Noe were still posted online at www.sfneighborhoodparks.org/pdf/PlaygrndReport06.PDF. The report we believe you're referring to listed data from a survey conducted in 2005 (see www.sfneighborhoodparks.org/pdf/rptIndividParkEvaluation-SummaryPublic.pdf). We're not sure why there's such a disparity in the ratings. But it's clear the Feb. 11 survey was conducted by volunteers at a "Love Your Playground" event cosponsored by the city.

Mistake Locked in Stone

Editor:

Your May issue had a photo of a misspelled Alvarado Street concrete sidewalk marking ("ALVARDO ST" at Alvarado and Noe). At the other end of Noe Valley, spelling is not the problem, but maybe dyslexia is. "30 TS" is chiseled into the corner of 30th and Castro streets.

Bill Rinehart
Via e-mail



Reader Bill Rinehart sent us this photo of an unintentionally poetic sign on 30th Street.

Talks Stones and Leaves

Editor:

Thank you for your great article last month on my newly released book, *Beach Stones* ["Artist Captures the Soul of Beach Stones," May 2006]. I'm writing about one small change, however.

The correct date for my upcoming talk at the San Francisco Center for the Book is Friday, June 9 (not June 7), at 7 p.m. I will be talking about the making of both of my books, *Beach Stones* and *Leaves & Pods*. The center is located at 300 De Haro Street at 16th Street; www.sfc.org. I look forward to seeing folks there!

Josie Iselin
29th Street

Duffy Gives Birth to Miffed Homeowner

Editor:

As the father of a daughter who has been in a very happy lesbian relationship for seven years, I was happy to read about Supervisor Bevan Duffy's unique approach to fatherhood ["Bevan Duffy's News: 'I'm Having a Baby!'" May 2006]. However, as a straight man who has lived in the Castro for 20 years, I was surprised to learn that he voted with the recent Peskin anti-homeownership legislation that was passed 7 to 3 by the Board of Supervisors, without inviting the San Francisco Small Property Owners to participate. As the owner of a three-unit building, one of which I've lived in all those years, I feel that my interests were not at all represented.

So good luck to him and the mother of his child in finding a place to live and raise their child. I'm thinking about selling the place just because of legislation like this. Maybe he could come up with the money and deal with my two neighbors. (Once the lease is signed, we don't use the words "tenant" or "landlord.")

It is my property and those of thousands of others that this legislation affects the most. I don't think it's okay for people like Peskin, Ted Gullicksen et al. to give our property away and ignore us, es-

pecially when our property taxes are paying their salaries!

The board was scheduled to have its second vote in late May, before sending the legislation to the mayor. I hope that Supervisor Duffy saw fit to change his vote. Or that the mayor vetoed it. Or failing that, I hope I live long enough to get to the polls in November. (I'm 75.)

Ronald Armstrong
San Francisco

Treating Small Landlords Like Enemies

Editor:

When will our supervisors stop putting forth housing legislation that pits senior, disabled, and HIV-positive renters against senior, disabled, and HIV-positive neighborhood landlords?

District 8 has one of the highest percentages of small rental buildings in the city. The people who own them provide housing that gives our neighborhoods their character, and old Victorian and Edwardian buildings are expensive to keep up. A lot of local owners are live-in landlords in their retirement years who are building-rich but cash-poor.

Thanks to the Board of Supervisors, they now have very little control over their buildings and homes. If we want to protect our Victorian and Edwardian rental stock, we need to protect the neighborhood landlords who live with their tenants so they won't feel the need to sell their buildings. Live-in landlords who are seniors, disabled, or HIV-positive should be able to live in their homes without undue regulations. They should be able to get sufficient rent to take care of themselves and their buildings. Our Board of Supervisors treats them like the enemy rather than people who are part of our neighborhood housing solution.

There should be special options for disabled and senior owners who live in small rental buildings. These owners should be able to raise rents to market rate if they are disabled or when they reach age 62, and be able to rent to other seniors without punitive restrictions. Perhaps then, most of them wouldn't feel forced to sell their buildings as TICs, and renters would still be able to enjoy the chance to live here.

Kim Stryker
Fair Oaks Street

Online Memorial for Jesse Zele

Editor:

Please be so kind as to let your readers know that Jesse Zele's memorial web site may be viewed at <http://www.ourweb.com/jesse>, and that there is a guestbook on the site in which friends of Jesse can share with the world their memories of this remarkable man. Thank you.

Peter Childress
Via e-mail

You Can't Fool Her

Editor:

I am one of those ne'er-do-wells who have come running back to the city, and am grateful that the real estate bubble burst, enabling me to do so. However, I was devastated when I realized that the library wasn't open and there wasn't going to be a Faux Paws seminar, Burning Woman Festival, or "Really Big Shoe" event in Noe Valley [*Baloney Valley Voice*, April 2006]. I was also sad to note that there's no Silentology...it's a concept whose time has come.

If that weren't enough, my e-mail to fHarmony was rejected and I missed out on adopting the bull mastiff-cockatiel mix you advertised. Perhaps I need a visit to Therapists Without Boundaries?

Margaret Mills
Via e-mail

P.S. Thanks for using your collective creative energies on the April edition. I love that there's a sense of humor alive and well in my neighborhood!

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
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The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$30 per year (\$20 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

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Display Advertising Deadline for the July/August 2006 Issue: June 16, 2006
Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: June 16, 2006

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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LETTERS 39¢

The Grandmother We Never Met

Editor's Note: After observing the 100th-anniversary ceremonies on TV and reading various earthquake reminiscences in the Voice, 71-year-old Richmond District resident Shirley McKeever wrote to tell us a poignant story involving her grandparents, Peter and Mary "Mamie" Maloney, who lived on 24th Street at the time of the disaster. She also sent us a copy of a 100-year-old letter, written by a young woman named Minnie Coleman who was taken in by the Maloneys after the quake. The document has more than historical value to McKeever and the rest of her large extended family. "It makes us closer to the grandmother we never met. We weren't alive at the time of the quake, so it gives us a more personal feeling for Minnie and Grandpa Maloney, too. It helps their memory live on." The Voice is grateful to McKeever for sharing her family history.



Mary "Mamie" Maloney, shown here in a bridal portrait, died in 1908, leaving behind six children.



Peter Maloney and Minnie Coleman (center) pose with young Imelda Maloney after her 1925 graduation from Immaculate Conception High School. They're standing in the backyard garden on 24th Street.

The Aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake

Homes destroyed and homes left standing. People looking out for themselves and people helping others. This describes the aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire.

Peter Maloney's house at 3969 24th Street, between Sanchez and Noe streets, was left standing. Peter, who owned his own horse-shoeing business, and his wife "Mamie" were very compassionate people. They took in five families and sheltered them in their large sub-basement, which Peter and his brothers had built a few years earlier.

The letter [reproduced at right] tells the story: "...We almost surrounded by fire, all our cloth got burned;...slept out in the street;...seven miles burnt of San Francisco;...earth sunk 8 feet;...the houses all fell over;...people kill and burnt to death;...shop is all gone and I have no money and no work..."

Minnie Coleman wrote this letter to her sister, Emma, in Oregon. "I am staying with a lady; are on a hill;...they are five family staying with her."

Minnie had heard about a family in Noe Valley offering shelter to the homeless. She knocked on the door at 3969 24th Street. Opening the door, Mamie saw a mother holding a young child. Herself a mother of five, Mamie took pity on Minnie and took her into her home. At night, the women and children slept sideways across the beds, so that four or five could fit on a bed.

Ten months later, as San Francisco was being reborn, Mamie gave birth to Imelda, my mother. But 13 months after the birth, in the spring of 1908, Mamie died of influenza.

In the years following the quake, the Maloneys had kept in touch with Minnie Coleman. She was working as a midwife, since Levi Strauss & Co. had burned down and she'd lost her sewing job. A few months after his wife died, Peter Maloney asked Minnie to return to 3969 24th Street as a housekeeper. He converted the dining room to a bedroom for her and her son, Frank. For the next 25 years, Minnie helped raise the six children of "The Lady Who Took Her In."

Though Minnie went to live with my mother a few years after Imelda got married in 1931, my grandfather stayed in the 24th Street house for the remainder of his life. After a long career as a blacksmith, he died in 1943 at the age of 84. (Born in Galway, Ireland, he had immigrated to the United States in the early 1880s.)

My mother, who had five children, 10 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren, lived to age 95. Minnie, whom we called "Nana," lived to be 100. She was the only mother my mother ever really knew.

Now, a hundred years after the 1906 quake, Peter Maloney's (Grandpa's) house is still standing. (It is now owned by a family of dentists, Drs. Barry Kinney and Coragene Savio. They have had it renovated, but kept its historic Victorian style.)

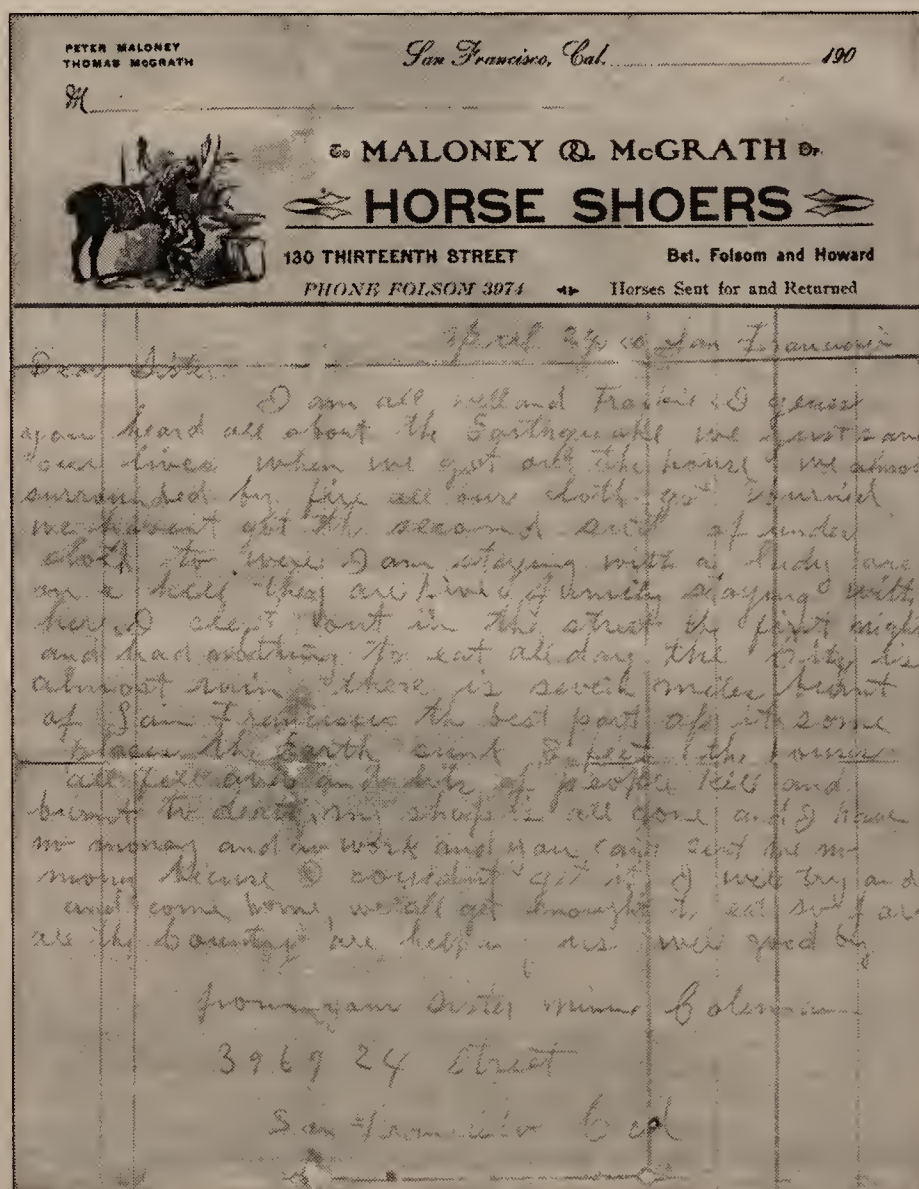
Also, Minnie Coleman's very old 1906 letter still exists, "to tell the story." My family is considering donating the original letter, along with my grandfather's 1898 citizenship papers, to the California Historical Society.

Shirley McKeever
Balboa Street



After the 1906 earthquake, Shirley McKeever's grandparents opened their home on 24th Street—now the office of dentists Barry Kinney and Coragene Savio—to five families displaced by the fire. One of the refugees they took in was a young single mother, Minnie Coleman. While staying in the house, Coleman wrote a letter to her sister in Oregon, on paper provided by her hosts, Mamie and Peter Maloney.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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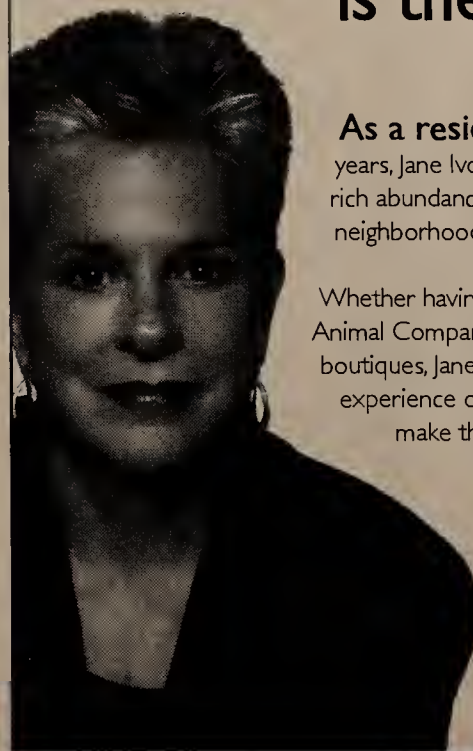
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A gazebo and a waterfall spilling into a little pond are among the gems in Yvonne Borg's garden on Jersey Street.

Friends Lead Us Down the Garden Path

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

while, there will be a point of focus, a teak bench or a little area, a garden unto itself. You feel like you're not in San Francisco anymore."

Jonica Brooks owns a chemical-free garden on 23rd Street between Church and Vicksburg streets, where she practices a modified French intensive method, designed to yield the most plants in the smallest space. "We eat out of it almost all year-round," says Brooks, who uses compost and mulch to keep weeds down and digs extra-deep beds, which allows a high rate of crop rotation. She also plants vegetables and flowers together. Her garden is bursting with cabbage, kale, chard, broccoli, lettuce, sweet peas, herbs, zucchini, strawberries, foxglove, poppies, and edible flowers.

The idea for a neighborhood garden tour took seed when the Friends discovered that most of the Noe Valley Community Benefit District's funds for improving the neighborhood were earmarked for maintenance on 24th Street, with little left over for beautification projects. The Friends of Noe Valley, in concert with the CBD board, will determine the project after the money has been collected.

"We hope to raise a couple of thousand dollars," May says.

Tour sponsors, including Backyards Garden Construction, Kathy White and Sonia Gomez-Rexelius of Barbagelata Real Estate, Deanna Glory Landscape Design, Mollie Stone's Markets, Paxton Gate, and Zephyr Real Estate, have donated money to cover the tour costs and contribute to the beautification fund. The tour fee is \$10, and children under 12 get in free.

May has been pleased with the neighborhood's enthusiastic response to the new tour. He and other members of the Friends wanted to plan an early summer activity to round out the year's events.



Jonica Brooks (left) and chief composter Sandy Brassard are pleased to show off their chemical-free garden on 23rd Street, which is bursting with pink poppies, irises, sweet peas, huge heads of cabbage, and many other vegetables and flowers.

Photos by Beverly Tharp

"We thought it's a great idea, people would have fun, and it would show off Noe Valley," he explains. The tour is small this year, but May says next year it may be larger. "I really have been astounded by the response. Once we got rolling, we had to turn people [gardeners] away."

To purchase tickets before the tour, visit one of four stores on 24th Street: Ladybug Ladybug, the Noe Valley Bakery, Small Frys, or Cover to Cover Booksellers (on Castro).

Tickets also will be available the day of the tour, outside the Noe Valley Farmers' Market on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets. It's a self-guided tour, so with each ticket purchase, participants will receive a map and description of the participating gardens. Email May at rambooks@pacbell.net or call 602-4445 for more information. ■

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Boys Hope Program Boosts Careers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

past. But the new residents are impatient for the future.

Thierry rolls his eyes and slumps deeper into the sofa in the common living room. Renigen just smiles his toothy grin, something he does often. Were it not for their involvement in Boys Hope Girls Hope, a nationwide program that offers a stable environment and a good education to at-risk middle and high school students, both boys would have fewer stupid rules to contend with. They would also have much less help navigating the road ahead, a road that will take them through high school, on to college, and beyond.

Thierry hopes the road will lead him to a position on a college football team and eventually to a professional football career, ideally with the San Francisco 49ers. Living at Boys Hope may curtail the freedom he relishes every other weekend when he visits his family in Sunnydale, but the ninth-grader grudgingly concedes that the program has its upsides. The food is good, he admits, and attending St. Ignatius Catholic School, for example, offers him the chance to get a better educa-

tion than he would have received outside the program.

"You learn more, and they actually, like, teach you something," he says.

For Renigen, who becomes visibly excited when talking about the *World of Warcraft* video game he gets to play when he visits home, a successful career is the goal.

"I want to go to college and get a good job," he says simply.

For now, the eighth-grader at Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School in Daly City is content to play on computers and hang out with his friends. He also likes science classes, especially biology.

"You do, like, things that you want. We're going to dissect a frog. It's not just books," he says.

Bright Kids with Spark

Renigen and Thierry are two of the six boys, ages 12 to 16, who currently live in the Boys Hope Girls Hope house, which moved to Noe Valley from South San Francisco in January 2006. The local program is affiliated with Boys Hope Girls Hope International, a private, non-profit, non-denominational organization founded in St. Louis, Mo., in 1975.

The new location in Noe Valley means more space, so the program plans to welcome four more boys within the next year. The San Francisco chapter also hopes to

open a similar house for girls someday. To join the program, children must be referred by a third party.

"Referrals come from a school principal or a counselor, social worker, and sometimes mentors," Ryan says.

While each Boys Hope participant has a unique set of circumstances, the boys all ended up here because someone recognized their potential and worried that their living situation might seriously jeopardize their chances in life. Oftentimes, Ryan says, the boys are being raised by grandparents or have so many siblings that they lack the personal attention and supervision they need to excel.

Unlike many high school kids who, for one reason or another, end up living apart from their parents or in foster homes, these boys are not victims of abuse, nor are they suffering from emotional disorders. They see their families every other weekend, and guests are allowed to visit whenever they want. The boys are bright kids who have the spark and motivation to go far in life. But they need help securing the basic building blocks to build a successful future: a supportive environment, a good education, and the chance to go to college.

Like a College Dorm

The boys' living quarters are much like a small college dorm, only better. Each boy has a private bedroom, where posters adorn the walls and stray socks dot the carpeted floor. Wireless Internet access runs throughout the upstairs. A communal study room on the second floor is outfitted with desktop computers, reference books, and plenty of space for spreading out. In the evenings, the two residential house parents who live with the boys can be found leaning over their charges' shoulders to help with homework assignments, re-

quired reading, and school projects.

"In a lot of ways, it functions like a boarding school," Ryan explains.

Each day, the boys wake up, eat breakfast, and head to their respective schools. In addition to St. Ignatius and Our Lady of Mercy, boys also attend Riordan High School and St. Philip School, nearby on Elizabeth Street. In the afternoons, they participate in after-school sports and other extracurricular activities before returning to the house to study, do their chores, and have dinner together. At day's end, they head to their rooms at their designated (but stupid) bedtimes.

Counseling and Scholarships

When they graduate from high school, Boys Hope Girls Hope will contribute \$5,000 annually to the boys' college educations. In the hectic months leading up to high school graduation, Boys Hope Girls Hope walks its residents through the college application process and acts as a liaison for securing financial aid.

When the kids graduate and head out into the world, Ryan says, the hope is that they will take the program's values with them.

Says Ryan: "It's the belief that everyone is created in love, and everyone has a goal in life."

And who knows, maybe someday they'll even see the value in all those stupid rules.

For more information about the Boys Hope Girls Hope program, including volunteer opportunities, visit www.bhghsf.org.



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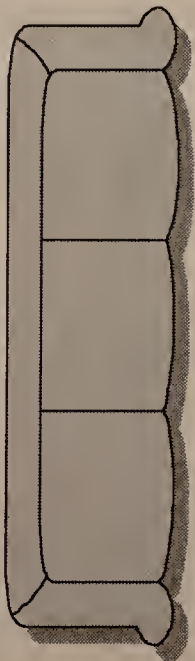
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Places to Put Up Friends and Family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

here is our 2006 guide to local guest accommodations (we do one every two or three years). Some of the profiles may repeat descriptions from past bed-and-breakfast roundups, but the room rates and other details are current. If, after reading this, you've decided you want to turn *your* home into a guesthouse, let us know. We'll be happy to include your lovely abode in a future survey.

A GUIDE TO NEIGHBORHOOD GUESTHOUSES

COTTAGE GATE

Douglass Street near 20th Street
Contact: Jim and Diane DeLange
Phone: 415-626-6497
E-mail: JimDiDL@aol.com

Jim and Diane DeLange's studio guestroom is part of the 1912 English cottage they've lived in for years. It sits on a quiet tree-lined street just below the Douglass Street steps. The street-level private entrance to the studio is handicapped-accessible, and the cozy guestroom features a queen-size sleigh bed, a small kitchenette with a sink, mini-refrigerator under the counter, toaster, electric tea kettle, coffeemaker, plenty of dishes, and a small café table for two.

The room has a private bath with shower and ample closet space. Jim and Diane stock the kitchen with a variety of breakfast items: pastries, cereal, fresh fruit, yogurt, hardboiled eggs, juices, cream cheese, and coffee and tea.

Cottage Gate rates are \$95 per night with a two-night minimum; \$90 per night for seven nights or more. Sorry, the DeLanges are not able to take children or



Local chef Dion has created a cozy and inviting apartment for guests on 25th Street, made extra special by an overstuffed chair and a bottle of wine.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

pets. Room amenities include a TV, VCR, and private phone line.

DOLORES PLACE

25th Street between Church and Dolores streets

Contact: Dave Kettering

Phone: 415-824-8728

E-mail: dave@doloresplace.com

Web: www.doloresplace.com

This studio guestroom is the lower unit of a charming 100-year-old Victorian row house. Set high on a hill on 25th Street, Dolores Place offers a scenic view of both Noe Valley and Twin Peaks.

Guests walk up a set of steps to a private sunny deck on the way to the room's private entrance. Inside, a queen-size cherry sleigh bed provides the focal point of the room. There's a small table for two and a kitchenette in the corner with a mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, toaster, and sink. A large pri-

vate bath with a shower is tucked behind the kitchenette.

Owner Dave Kettering, who lives upstairs in the house, stocks a continental-style breakfast—fresh fruit, yogurt, juice, sweet rolls, cereal, coffee and tea—the night before his guests check in.

Rates are \$129 per night with a two-night minimum. Amenities include a VCR, cable TV, and a private phone. No pets, but children are welcome.

DOLORES STUDIO

Dolores at 27th Street

Contact: Samantha

415-285-5677

Just off Dolores Street is a small studio guestroom with a gated garden of blooming roses, lilies, and azaleas. The room features a double bed, large closet, and a small kitchenette with a sink, microwave, toaster, mini-refrigerator, coffeemaker, and dishes. The bathroom is tiny with a small sink, shower, and toilet. Breakfast is not offered, but phone and cable TV are included. There's room outside for guests to sit and enjoy a sunny day in the garden at a small café table.

From Dolores Studio it is a short walk on 27th to Church Street, which features Eric's Chinese Restaurant, Amberjack Sushi, and, a block down the street, Martha's coffee shop.

No pets, but children are welcome. Rate is \$95 per night with a three-night minimum. A weekly rate is also available.

GARDEN COTTAGE

28th Street between Sanchez and Church streets

Contact: Bob Small

Phone: 415-970-8177

Web: www.bemyguestSF.com

A garden path covered with Mexican sage, roses, and lilies leads to the Garden Cottage on 28th Street. The cottage faces the backyard deck of the owners' Victorian house, and has its own small front porch full of potted geraniums and other spring flowers.

Guests walk into a small sitting room with a sofa that converts to a twin-size

bed. A small bath with a shower and linen closet is tucked in the corner. From the sitting room, you step up into a bedroom with a queen-size bed, and then to a full-size kitchen. Breakfast is not offered, but guests are welcome to use the kitchen to cook their meals.

The cottage rents for \$125 per night and comes equipped with a stereo, TV, VCR, and private phone for local calls. Weekly rates are available. Children are fine, pets are negotiable.

If you're looking for more space, manager Tom Kennedy offers two other guest apartments in Noe Valley. One is a studio on 28th Street that goes for \$120 per night; the other is a one-bedroom apartment on Fair Oaks Street for \$125 per night.

HIDDEN COTTAGE

1186 Noe Street between Jersey and 25th streets

Contact: Dave and Ginger Cannata
Phone: 415-282-4492

E-mail: noe@aol.com

Web: www.hidden-cottage.com

This striking two-story white Victorian farmhouse, with bougainvillea blooming over the front door, was built in 1870 when the neighborhood was still dotted with dairy farms. Longtime Noe Valley residents Dave and Ginger Cannata live in the farmhouse and offer a guestroom with lots of privacy and charm upstairs at the back of the house.

A narrow path winds around the side of the house, through a garden full of impatiens, roses, and plum trees, and up a wooden staircase to a light and airy room with a skylight. The room boasts a queen-size cast-iron bed, an antique oak dresser, two closets, comfy chairs, and "lots of books." A deck off the bedroom has an outdoor shower, potted ferns, and tables and chairs for sunbathers. Inside, a large bathroom comes with a double tub, marble floors, and skylight. The room also has a TV/VCR and a private phone.

A breakfast of coffee, tea, pastries, and fresh fruit is hand-delivered in a picnic basket. Hidden Cottage is only one-and-a-half short blocks from 24th Street.

The rate is \$175 per night, with a two-night minimum stay. The room limit is two people.

COOK'S QUARTERS

25th Street near Church Street

Contact: Dion

E-mail: kchwh@sbeglobal.net

This one-bedroom in-law unit with a private entrance is two short blocks from 24th Street. The bedroom is tastefully decorated in florals and checks and features a very firm queen-size bed with a comfortable overstuffed chair and ottoman. A bottle of wine and a bottle of mineral water with wine glasses for guests sit atop a bookcase full of books. The apartment has a good-size bathroom with a shower.

The large kitchen, which doubles as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Guesthouses Galore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Dion's workspace for her catering business, is not available for cooking meals. However, guests are welcome to use the kitchen table, refrigerator, toaster oven, coffeemaker, etc. The apartment also has a phone and a television (no cable).

Well-behaved dogs are welcome. There is a two-person maximum. Dion charges \$90 per night, with a two-night minimum. Maximum stay is one week.

NOE'S NEST BED & BREAKFAST
1257 Guerrero Street near 24th Street
Contact: Sheila Ash
Phone: 415-821-0751
E-mail: noesnest@aol.com
Web: noesnest.com

Noe's Nest, located for many years on 23rd Street, has relocated to a stately 19th-century Victorian a block down the hill from Noe Valley, on Guerrero Street between 24th and 25th.

Owner Sheila Ash, who also lives in the house, welcomes visitors into the main sitting room and formal dining room, filled with Victorian settees and family photographs. She serves breakfast buffet-style in her large eat-in kitchen overlooking the backyard patio garden. Breakfast includes fresh fruit, bagels, lox, cream cheese, cereal, quiche or tarts, coffee and juice.

Noe's Nest offers several rooms for guests. Each has a queen- or king-size bed and a private bathroom. Some have working fireplaces and jacuzzi tubs. A third-floor "attic" suite is a good place for families with children: it has two bedrooms with a living room, fireplace, and kitchenette.

Rates range from \$119 to \$169 per night. Each room has cable TV, a DVD player, and private phone with free local calls. The inn is also available for parties and special events.

THE PARKER GUEST HOUSE
520 Church Street near 18th Street
Contact: Bill Boeddiker and Bob O'Halloran
Phone: 415-621-3222
Toll Free: 1-888-520-7275
Web: www.parkerguesthouse.com

The Parker Guest House is actually in the Castro, but we chose to include it in our profiles because of positive reports from visitors—and since it's just two J-streetcar stops from Noe Valley.

This large bed-and-breakfast is comprised of two buildings joined by a central courtyard: a 1909 Edwardian mansion and a 1910 Victorian, both recognizable from the street by their bright yellow exterior.

Visitors are welcomed into the Edwardian's grand foyer with a display of fresh-cut flowers from the garden. A beautifully appointed front parlor showcases a baby grand piano, a marble fireplace, an 1860 English settee, and comfortable chairs for guests to relax in while they sip their sherry each evening.



A charming yellow-and-white Victorian on Elizabeth Street, owned by Dave and Ginger Cannata, holds three guest apartments: the Summer, the Island, and the Cecilia Cottage.



Jim Goodwin offers a Vicksburg Street studio apartment that has a full-size, eat-in kitchen, as well as a patio and garden.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

The dining area is at the back of the guesthouse, in a sunroom off the large kitchen. Guests can partake of an abundant continental breakfast featuring pastry, fruit salad, cereal, yogurt, toast, English muffins, and fresh-squeezed orange juice. The sunroom and deck look out over a back yard garden filled with roses, lilies, sweet alyssum, and lobelia.

The Parker Guest House offers 21 guestrooms, ranging in size from a standard queen to a junior king suite (with a separate sitting area, writing desk, and small balcony). All the rooms have down comforters, armoires, fresh flowers, and terrycloth robes. Each has its own bathroom, except for two smaller "economy" rooms, which share a bath.

Boeddiker notes that his guesthouse caters primarily to gay and lesbian clientele, but says everyone is welcome. Rates are \$129 to \$209 per night, with a two-night minimum on the weekends. Amenities includes concierge service, free wireless, cable TV, private phones, and voicemail. You must leave your dog at home, but you can park your car on-site for an additional \$17 a night.

SUMMER COTTAGE
ISLAND COTTAGE
CECILIA COTTAGE
Elizabeth Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets
Contact: Dave and Ginger Cannata
Phone: 415-282-4492
E-mail: noe@aol.com
Web: www.hidden-cottage.com

Just around the corner from 24th Street, nestled behind an iron gate and large pots of colorful geraniums, is a yellow and white turn-of-the-century Victorian. This house is also owned by Dave and Ginger Cannata, who run the successful Hidden Cottage bed-and-breakfast (see earlier listing). These three "cottages" are actually one-bedroom apartments within the house.

Summer Cottage is the back unit in the Victorian, and it has a private entrance at the side of the house. Guests walk in through the bedroom, which has a queen-size bed and white ceiling fan. A large eat-in country kitchen off the bedroom boasts black-and-white-checkered floors and an old-fashioned hoosier cupboard. A sitting room with a queen-size pullout couch

leads out to a porch overlooking the backyard garden, which is filled with roses and a lemon tree. Sleeps four.

Island Cottage guests enter from the street, through a wrought-iron gate and into a small foyer. The apartment offers a sitting room with table and chairs by a window looking out on Elizabeth Street. It features a small bedroom with a queen-size sleigh bed, a newly remodeled bathroom with shower and tub, a pull-out sofa bed for one in the sitting room, and a small galley kitchen in the back of the apartment. This apartment is also accessible to the backyard garden. Sleeps three.

Cecilia Cottage is a three-room upstairs apartment that also overlooks Elizabeth Street. A small open sitting room at the top of the stairs has a pullout couch and chairs. A folksy eat-in kitchen with peach walls, wood floors, painted roosters perched on the windowsills, and a red-checkered tablecloth invite you to sit down for tea. The bedroom features a queen-size iron bed and large dresser. There's a bath with a shower and tub. Sleeps three.

Each apartment has a full kitchen with gas stove, TV/VCR (no cable), private phone, and lots of closet space. The refrigerator and pantry are stocked with coffee, juice, and croissants, and 24th Street cafes are only a block away.

The rate for each cottage is \$175 per night for two guests with a two-night minimum. Additional guests are \$25 per night.

VICKSBURG APARTMENT
125 Vicksburg Street at 23rd Street
Contact: Jim Goodwin
415-285-6433; 415-215-2617

This large studio apartment sits in the back of Jim Goodwin's Victorian house on Vicksburg Street, a block from 24th Street restaurants and shops. The entrance is through a locked alleyway that leads to a patio and garden.

Guests enter the apartment through the bedroom, which features a queen-size bed, dresser, two wicker armchairs, cable television, and a room heater for chilly nights. Just past the bedroom is a hall with a desk and a large closet with extra sheets and towels. The full-size eat-in kitchen is at the far end of the apartment and includes a refrigerator, stove, coffeemaker, microwave, and dishes.

Jim does not serve breakfast, but guests are welcome to use the kitchen. For those who like to cook, Bell Market on 24th Street is only a short walk away. There is no house phone, so bring your cell.

The rate is \$100 per night with a two-night minimum. Weekly rates are also available. ■



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The Cost of Living in Noe

Deep Pockets Dominate Local Market

By Corrie M. Anders

Luxury home buyers, including two who each paid more than \$2 million, continued to throw their weight around in Noe Valley this spring.

Twelve homes closed escrow in Noe in April 2006—the same number as in April a year ago—according to data provided to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate. But of those 12 properties, only one sold for less than \$1 million, and the average single-family home cost above \$1.4 million, 18 percent more than last year.

Condominiums also attracted big bucks. Buyers purchased 11 condos in April, compared with six sales in March and nine one year earlier. Four condos sold for more than \$1 million, and the average sales price was just \$5,000 shy of \$1 million.

As they have been doing for the past few months, buyers have been offering more than the asking price—but not the sometimes outrageous overbids that characterized the market last year.

Detached-home buyers paid a 5 percent premium compared with a 16 percent overbid one year ago, and condo purchasers gave sellers a 3 percent bump over the list price in contrast to one year ago, when they paid 19 percent more.

Buyers took a few days longer to close escrow, and that, along with the deceleration of overbids, could make it appear that the Noe Valley market is “not quite as red hot as last year,” says Randall Kostick, Zephyr’s general sales manager.

But home prices in the neighborhood continued to rise, he says—especially in the top tier of the market.

“Prices have not suffered,” Kostick says. “And the reason is that we have

enough buyers out there to keep the interest level in property very high.”

Just how much interest? A buyer paid \$2.3 million for a home right in the heart of Noe Valley. The four-bedroom, 3½-bath residence, with more than 2,800 square feet of space, is located in the 100 block of Clipper Street, between Church and Sanchez streets. Another \$2 million-plus sale occurred a few blocks away, in the 500 block of Clipper Street between Diamond and Douglass streets (*see below*).

The highest-priced condo, a 2,300-square-foot unit with three bedrooms and 3½ baths, sold for \$1,620,000. It is located in the 1000 block of Dolores Street between 23rd and 24th streets. ■

‘Green House’ Snapped Up

A newly-built “green house” in Noe Valley sure brought in a lot of green.

Back in April, the *Voice* featured a front-page article about an environmentally-friendly home that three local developers built in the 500 block of Clipper Street. The LORAX Development team bragged that it was the greenest house in San Francisco.

The asking price for the four-bedroom, four-bath contemporary home was a cool \$1,899,000. But the number didn’t deter three groups of buyers, who all offered more than the asking price. The home sold in May for \$2,150,000, to the president of a pharmaceutical firm.

The family, which includes three children, was moving in at the end of last month. The *Voice* checked in with Mike Kerwin, one of the partners of LORAX Development, who said the new owners have lived and traveled internationally.

What attracted the family? The family told Kerwin it was the home’s modern, international feel and its earth-friendly features—particularly the solar-panel energy system and the hardwood floors fashioned from 100-year-old railroad ties salvaged from South-east Asia.

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
April 2006	12	\$835,000	\$2,340,000	\$1,402,213	30	105%
March 2006	11	\$785,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,201,545	35	106%
April 2005	12	\$900,000	\$1,855,000	\$1,188,625	22	116%
Condominiums						
April 2006	11	\$650,000	\$1,620,000	\$995,318	30	103%
March 2006	6	\$610,000	\$1,502,000	\$1,094,333	46	106%
April 2005	9	\$675,000	\$1,200,000	\$861,889	27	119%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
April 2006	5	\$1,125,000	\$1,616,500	\$1,372,800	31	107%
March 2006	3	\$1,321,000	\$1,706,000	\$1,492,000	21	106%
April 2005	2	\$1,195,000	\$1,218,000	\$1,206,500	37	101%
5+-unit buildings						
April 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
April 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data. NVV 6/06

Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents May 2006	Average May 2006	Average A Year Ago
Studio	7	\$ 995 – \$1,300	\$1,134 / mo.	\$1,092 / mo.
1-bedroom	13	\$1,300 – \$2,295	\$1,655 / mo.	\$1,489 / mo.
2-bedroom	21	\$1,600 – \$4,000	\$2,446 / mo.	\$2,286 / mo.
3-bedroom	9	\$2,250 – \$4,500	\$3,259 / mo.	\$3,147 / mo.
4+-bedroom	7	\$3,200 – \$8,500	\$5,950 / mo.	N/A

** This survey was based on a sample of 57 Noe Valley listings appearing on www.craigslist.com from May 15 to 19, 2006. NVV 6/06

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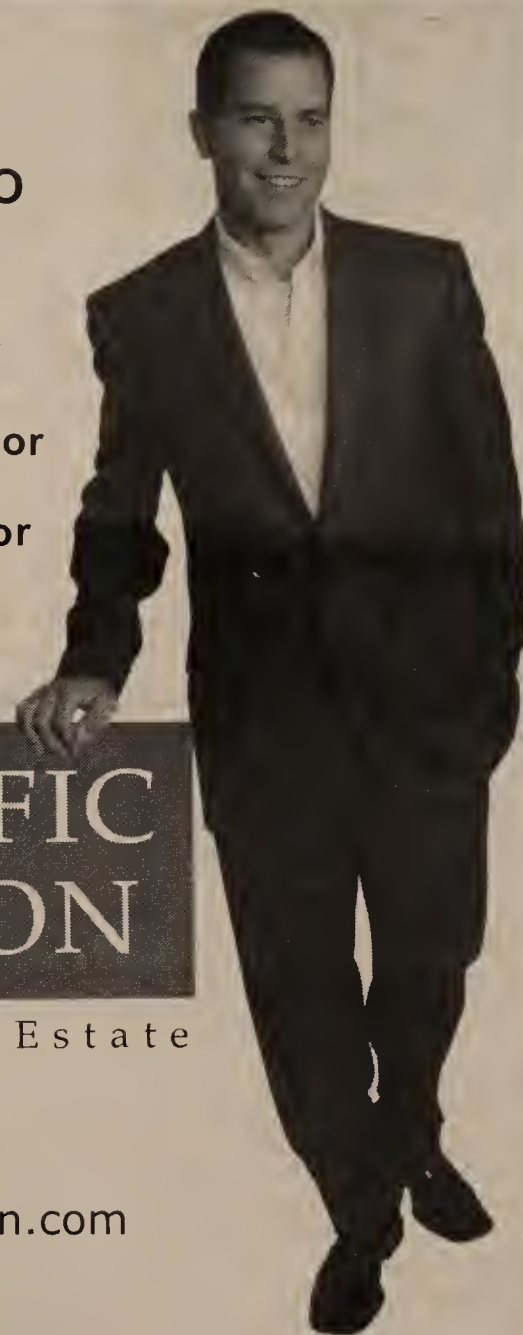
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a monthly roundup of crimes and other incidents in Noe Valley. The area covered is roughly bordered by Grand View, 21st, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The April 2006 crime log was culled from incident reports filed online and by Mission and Ingleside police.

Saturday, April 1

Attempted Robbery on the Street with Bodily Force/Conspiracy: Reported 1:23 p.m., 1100 block of Noe Street

Grand Theft Bicycle: Reported 3:20 p.m., Day and Sanchez streets

Sunday, April 2

Malicious Mischief, Breaking Windows: Reported 3:42 a.m., 3800 block of 24th Street
Grand Theft from a Building: Reported 2:30 p.m., 1500 block of Noe Street

Attempted Theft from Locked Vehicle: Reported 3:31 p.m., 1600 block of Noe Street
Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 11 p.m., Douglass and Clipper streets

Tuesday, April 4

Suspicious Occurrence: Reported 1:40 p.m., 1300 block of Guerrero Street

Wednesday, April 5

Forcible Rape, Bodily Force/Domestic Violence: Reported 2:15 a.m., 2000 block of Castro Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Attempted Forcible Entry: Reported 8 a.m., 1000 block of Sanchez Street

Burglary, Residence Under Construction, Forcible Entry: Reported 3 p.m., 600 block of Douglass Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 7 p.m., Homestead and 24th streets

Thursday, April 6

Battery: Reported 8:01 a.m., 1800 block of Church Street

Friday, April 7

Possession of Marijuana: Reported 8:07 a.m., 1200 block of Noe Street; arrest
Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9 p.m., Grand View Avenue and 24th Street

Saturday, April 8

Robbery, Armed with a Gun: Reported 12:40 a.m., 4300 block of 24th Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 1:30 p.m., Dolores and 25th streets

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 4 p.m., Elizabeth and Noe streets

How to Contact the SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in the Mission and Ingleside police districts.

Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the Mission Police District) may phone Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mail SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444. For online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/site/police.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984. To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Captain Paul Chignell at Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency situation in San Francisco, call 553-0123.

Prized Nursery School Quilt Missing

On Thursday, May 18, at around 12:30 p.m., two plastic carrier bags, one white and one beige, were picked up by an unknown person from the sidewalk in front of the Noe Valley Ministry, on Sanchez Street near 23rd Street.

The bags contained a priceless treasure: this year's Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School quilt. "It was the complete top of the quilt—all that we had left to do was sew the top to the bottom," laments preschool director Nina Youkelson.

Sewn each year for the past 30 years, each quilt is a unique labor of love, made by the current parents at the school. "It's a beautiful visual manifestation of what we're all about, our wonderful cooperative spirit," Youkelson says.

This year's quilt, with the theme "Rise Up Singing," features a full moon looking down on a landscape comprised of favorite Noe Valley Nursery School songs, all of which come to rest on a mother and baby. Thirty families have been working on the design, and stitching and appliquéing, since October. In late May, the co-op posted notices in stores and on utility poles throughout Noe Valley, offering a reward for the quilt's return.

The quilt is the grand prize in the school's yearly spring raffle, an event that raises funds for a large portion of the school's operating expenses. Youkelson says the raffle, which includes other prizes, will go ahead as scheduled on June 16 at Douglass Playground. If the missing quilt does not show up before then, the school will use a quilt the parents made in 1990, which until recently was hanging in the Noe Valley Library. "The quilt's owner called when the library closed for renovation, and asked if we wanted it. So when this happened, I called her and she generously brought it over. It's called 'Homes Around the World' and has pictures of homes, such as an igloo, teepee, chalet, even a homeless person," says Youkelson.

But she still hopes someone will send home the "Rise Up Singing" quilt.

If you know anything concerning the quilt's whereabouts, call 819-1840 or the school at 647-2278. Or you may deliver it to the Noe Valley Ministry, or mail it to the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

"The children and parents of the school will thank you most emphatically."

Stolen Automobile: Reported 6 p.m., 3700 block of 24th Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 10:30 p.m., 400 block of Day Street

Robbery, Armed with a Gun: Reported 11:50 p.m., 300 block of Jersey Street

Robbery, Armed with a Gun: Reported 11:57 p.m., 25th and Dolores streets

Monday, April 10

Grand Theft from Person: Reported 2:40 a.m., 24th and Church streets

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 3 a.m., 23rd and Sanchez streets

Grand Theft of Property: Reported 9 a.m., 400 block of 27th Street

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 12:13 p.m., 1000 block of Dolores Street

Petty Theft from Unlocked Auto: Reported 7 p.m., 1000 block of Dolores Street

Recovered Vehicle, Stolen Outside San Francisco: Reported 8:04 p.m., 1300 block of Douglass Street

Robbery on the Street, Strongarm: Reported 10:34 p.m., Church and Day streets

Aggravated Assault with Bodily Force: Reported 10:50 p.m., 1400 block of Church Street; arrest, booked

Robbery on the Street with a Dangerous Weapon: Reported 10:50 p.m., Church and Clipper streets

Tuesday, April 11

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 11 p.m., Fair Oaks and 24th streets

Wednesday, April 12

Petty Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 4:45 p.m., 3800 block of 23rd Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 5 p.m., 1100 block of Dolores Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 9 p.m., Elizabeth and Castro streets

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 9:28 p.m., 600 block of Noe Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 10:05 p.m., 900 block of Duncan Street

Battery/Threats Against Life: Reported 10:06 p.m., 1600 block of Sanchez Street

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 11 p.m., 400 block of Day Street

Thursday, April 13

Burglary, Hot Prowl, Unlawful Entry: Reported 8:54 a.m., 400 block of Grand View

Malicious Mischief, Breaking Windows: Reported 11:17 a.m., 300 block of 29th Street

Friday, April 14

Grand Theft from Unlocked Auto/Grand Theft from a Building: Reported 7:30 p.m., 400 block of 28th Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 3 a.m., 700 block of Noe Street

Wednesday, April 19

Recovered Vehicle Stolen Outside S.F.: Reported 7:13 a.m., 1700 block of Dolores Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 8:30 p.m., Castro and 22nd streets

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 9 p.m., Noe and 25th streets

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 10 p.m., 28th and Dolores streets

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 10:30 p.m., 600 block of Alvarado Street

Thursday, April 20

Robbery on the Street with a Gun: Reported 1:40 a.m., Church and 27th streets

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 2 a.m., 1500 block of Sanchez Street

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 5:50 a.m., 1100 block of Dolores Street

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 4:30 p.m., 1100 block of Dolores Street

Friday, April 21

Aided Case, Mentally Disturbed: Reported 5:33 p.m., 25th and Sanchez streets

Saturday, April 22

Burglary, Residence Under Construction, Attempted Forcible: Reported 4:30 p.m., 3800 block of Cesar Chavez Street

Sunday, April 23

Burglary of Residence, Attempted Forcible Entry: Reported 11:42 p.m., 4000 block of 25th Street

Tuesday, April 25

Petty Theft Bicycle: Reported 9 p.m., 3700 block of 24th Street

Wednesday, April 26

Suspicious Occurrence: Reported noon, 1000 block of Noe Street

Found Property: Reported 3:20 p.m., 700 block of Douglass Street

Thursday, April 27

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 7 a.m., 900 block of Sanchez Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 8:20 a.m., 1000 block of Noe Street

Malicious Mischief, Graffiti: Reported 5:45 p.m., 3600 block of 24th Street

Burglary of Residence Under Construction, Forcible Entry: Reported 6:30 p.m., 3700 block of 22nd Street

Friday, April 28

Grand Theft from a Building: Reported 9:30 a.m., 4100 block of 24th Street

Aided Case, Mentally Disturbed: Reported 11:40 a.m., 3900 block of 24th Street

Malicious Mischief, Graffiti: Reported 12:04 p.m., 1400 block of Dolores Street

Assault by Juvenile Suspect/Threats Against Life: Reported 2:15 p.m., 1200 block of Noe Street

Saturday, April 29

Grand Theft from a Building: Reported 8 a.m., 3900 block of 24th Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported noon, 400 block of Fair Oaks Street

Sunday, April 30

Robbery on the Street, Strongarm: Reported 9:10 p.m., Church and 22nd streets

The Voice thanks Noe Valley Police Officer Andrew MacIlrath for his help in providing data for this month's Police Beat.

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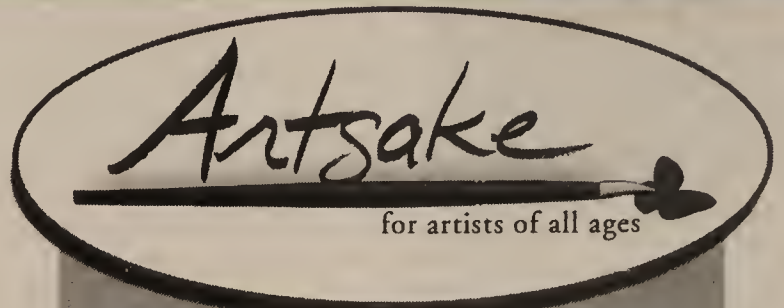
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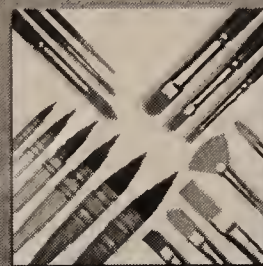
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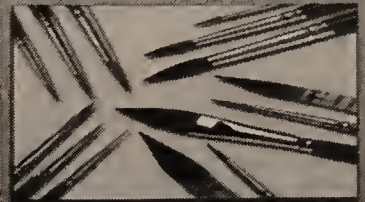


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Two of Me Now: Ups and Downs of a Stay-at-Home Dad

In 2004, my son Liko was born. Everything—the tree outside the window, the dreams I have at night—changed.

Suddenly my job, which had consumed so much of my life and imagination, seemed like

only the shadow of real life. I quit. My wife went back to work and I joined the ranks of stay-at-home dads.

It was just me and him, and it was scary. Liko, a confirmed breast addict, could not nap without his mother. When I'd set him down, he'd wail inconsolably, relentlessly, reaching out to me. But when I picked him up, he'd fight back, kicking and arching his back, his little hands pushing off against my chest. This'd go on for hours.

I'd put him in the stroller and walk. He'd cry and fall asleep, but when I stopped—in a bookstore, a coffee shop—he'd wake and cry again. I'd keep moving through Noe Valley and the Castro, sticking to the side streets, going up the hills and down, up and down.

Time slowed, and with every minute I'd feel more and more isolated, more and more anxious. Was this now my life? I'd see three people laughing in

a picture window, and want to be one of them.

I learned to let that go, let myself get lost. On foggy days the hills of San Francisco floated around me like deserted islands. I'd study the cornices and gables on the Victorian facades, watch the tsunami of cloud spill over Twin Peaks.

Later, Liko learned to fall asleep in my arms. I'd carry him through all the rooms, stepping carefully around the bouncy seat, the swing, the baby gym, the high chair, the toy basket. I'd do this for hours.

One day, I sat down in a rocking chair and he stayed asleep. I took a book down from the bookshelf. It was the best book I'd ever read; I don't remember its name. One afternoon as

the room darkened, his eyes snapped open and he said

"Dada" and smiled: he was glad to see me there with him.

Today, he naps on his own and I am never afraid to be alone with him. I even meet other stay-at-home dads at Noe Courts. I'm aware that I'm supposedly part of a trend. I've read that since 1994, the number of stay-at-home dads has doubled, from a contemptible 76,000 to a pathetic 147,000—that's about 1.7 percent of all the people who take care of children full-time.

Even in liberal, gender-bending San Francisco, I'm still usually the only dad in Liko's music and swim classes, still a man in concentric worlds of women and children. I stand out, and I stand outside the circle, listening to conversations I can't participate in. I know I'm hurting my career prospects. I know that some men (and some families) look down on my choice.

I wonder all the time if I shouldn't just give up and get a full-time job. I do

have a professional life, by the way. In fact, I have an office downtown—getting up at 6 a.m. and in my office by 7—and I more or less love my work as a freelancer.

One day, I sat down in a rocking chair and he stayed asleep. I took a book down from the bookshelf. It was the best book I'd ever read.

Sometimes, when it's still dark and I'm standing in line for coffee, I can feel my old life twitching like a phantom limb. I want to jump out of line and go running back to 2003, when I could just decide that today I'm going to sit in a café and read, and then later I'm going to see a movie, and then after that I'll go to the Make-Out Room and get drunk with my friends.

At noon I come home and my wife goes to work. We don't see each other much these days. I know she'd rather be the one to stay home, and at that moment of transition, my guilt is overwhelming.

It's probably impossible—and there's no shame in this—for a non-parent to understand the heaven and hell of being a parent. It's a whole cosmos unto itself, ruled by Satan on one side and Jehovah on the other, and you never quite feel whole—or at least, I don't. There are two of me now, one who yearns for freedom and the other who wants nothing more than to see my son sleeping on my lap, holding me down, lifting me up.

I'm still in the process of being transformed in ways both bad and good. Maybe in time I'll grow up and the two sides will merge into a whole person. More likely, judging from the patterns

I've seen in my family and in older parents, it'll be a seesaw, with one side and then the other getting heavier, lighter, heavier, wishing, accepting, wishing.

In April, I met a dad at Douglass Park. He had a 9-month-old.

"Got the day off?" he asked. I told him that I took care of the baby while my wife was at work.

"Every day?" he continued.

"Sometimes we have a sitter," I said, "when I have too much work to do."

He looked at his baby, who was trying to lick the sand.

"I've never been alone with her for more than three hours," he said. "That sounds scary, to be alone with a baby all day. What do you do?"

I told him: "Nothing much. I was scared at first, but now I'm just nervous and tired all the time."

"Uh, that really sounds terrible."

"No," I said. "It's great. You should try it."

Jeremy Adam Smith lives on Castro Street with his wife, Shelly Doo, and their 2-year-old son, Liko. When not chasing balls at Noe Courts, Jeremy blogs about the politics of parenting at <http://daddy-dialectic.blogspot.com/>.

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of first-person essays. Mail manuscripts to Bylines, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail submissions to bylines@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. Thank you.

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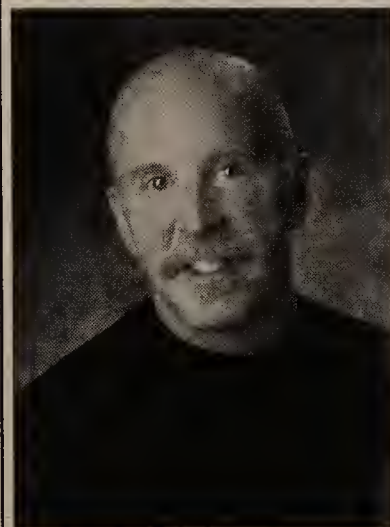
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An SOS from the Little People

By Laura McHale Holland

It worked once. Here's hoping it'll work again. Back in 1999, an article in this newspaper helped connect Little People's Workshop, a cooperatively-run, pre-pre-school program for tots 1½ to 3 years old, with Bethany United Methodist Church on Sanchez Street.

At that time, the low-cost childcare option for young families faced eviction from its Cortland Street home because the building was sold. Not even pleas from then Mayor Willie Brown, former State Senator John Burton, and four city supervisors could persuade the new landlord to extend the school's lease. After 23 years of bringing tykes together for their first away-from-home explorations, Little People's Workshop had to go.

But after reading about the little school's fate in these pages, members of Bethany's faith community opened their hearts and their doors. The school and Bethany have had a symbiotic relationship ever since.

But now Bethany needs to renovate its building, and once again, Little People's Workshop has to move. "We're in desperate need of a new home," says Molly Michelson, one of the parents in the school and a member of the committee looking for new quarters. "We have until the end of the year, but we'd like to be settled by August because we have a big turnover in September, and we'd like for

the new kids to not get used to this space and then have to adjust to another location in just a couple of months."

The co-op has 14 families, but only eight children attend each day. "It's a full-day program, and children can attend from two to four days a week," says Michelson. "Parents work shifts depending on how many days the children go. One parent provides a hot lunch every day, and another provides snacks. And we have different activities, games and art projects, and trips to the park. We also invite the public to join us for AcroSports [tumbling, dance, and circus arts] and music for the kids once or twice a week."

Don't worry. The tots get to rest, too. They all nestle in for naps from 12:30 to 2 or 3 p.m.

Member families live in Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, the Castro, and the Inner Sunset. They'd like to keep Little People's Workshop as close as possible to its current location. Michelson says the workshop needs two rooms, a bathroom, an outdoor space, and proximity to a park and Muni.

If you'd like to have the pitter-patter of little feet in your building or if you know of a potential location for this little school which has served the community for decades, please give Michelson a ring at 516-4041 or call Little People's Workshop at 647-7607. ■

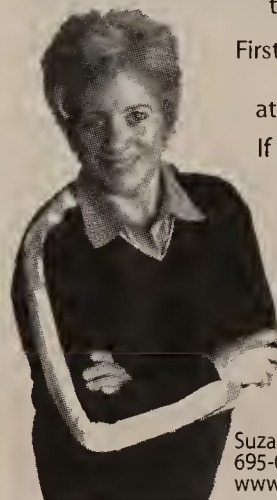


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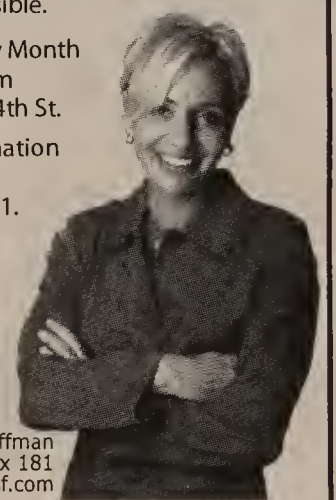
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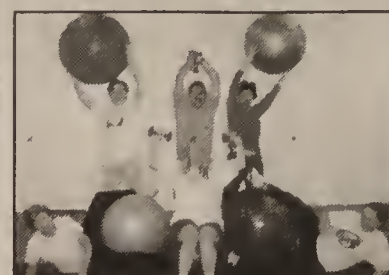
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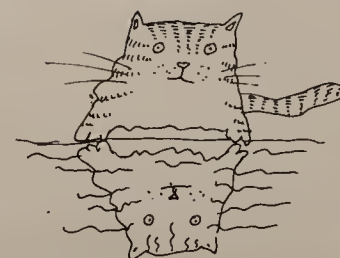
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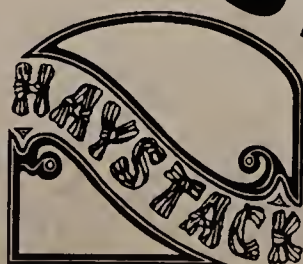
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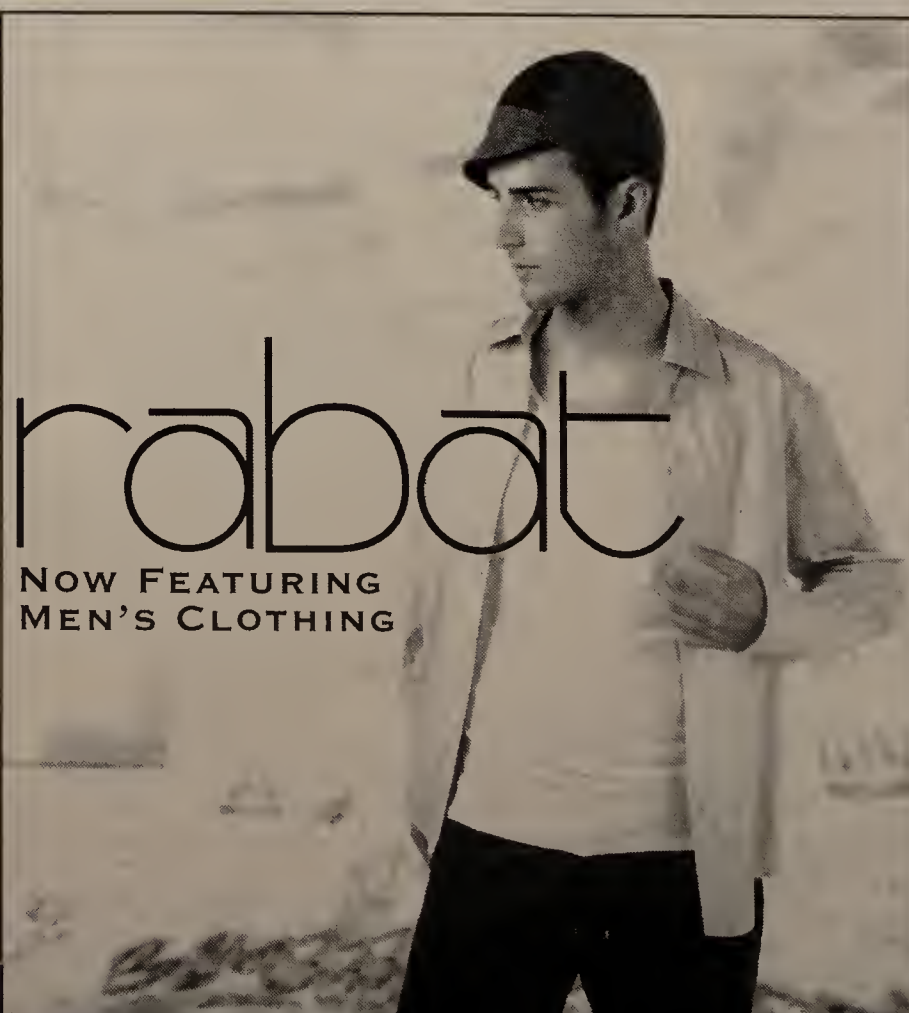
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SHORT TAKES

Botanical Mural in Full Bloom

If you ride the J-Church streetcar, you've probably noticed that the gray walls surrounding the Theresa Mahler Child Development Center at the corner of Church and 22nd streets have been transformed over the past six months into an earth-toned mural filled with wildflowers and butterflies. Artist Mona Caron says "very tiny things are painted really big," allowing viewers to appreciate even the smallest plant.

Now you can help Caron celebrate the mural's completion, at a special "unveiling" on Saturday, June 17, starting at noon. The party and ceremony will include live music by Rupa and the April Fishes, dancers, stilt walkers, snacks, and drinks. Various dignitaries, including Supervisor Bevan Dufty and Assemblyman Mark Leno, will be on hand to congratulate Caron in person.

Her *Botanical Mural*, as she calls it, is one of the largest in San Francisco, with a total surface area of 2,750 feet. It was funded by the City of San Francisco's Community Challenge Grant Program and by a grant from San Francisco Beautiful. Caron is a Swiss-born artist whose previous works include the award-winning *Market Street Railway Mural*, at Church and 15th streets. To learn more about the *Botanical* project or to donate funds toward a graffiti-proof varnish for the mural, visit www.monacaron.com.

Keeping Kids in San Francisco

Why are there so few families with school-age children in San Francisco? Bethany United Methodist Church is hosting a "table talk" to discuss the issue and figure out what can be done to keep kids in the city.

Speakers from the Mayor's Policy Council on Children, Youth, and Families; Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth; and Parents for Public Schools will attend. The informal forum takes place on Sunday, June 11, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., at Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez Street at Clipper Street. Childcare will be provided. For information, call 647-8393.

Playwright-Turned-Politician Performs at Marsh

When her 2004 bid for Congress failed to win her a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, longtime Noe Valley resident and playwright Terry Baum turned her surprising experiences into a comic stage performance. The musical farce, called *Baum for Peace or How I Learned to Stop Worrying & Love Democracy*, will play June 29 through July 22 at the Marsh theater on Valencia Street.

Baum, who has lived on Douglass Street since 1978, hoped to represent San Francisco as a peace advocate and Green Party standard-bearer. Once described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "the lesbian Woody Allen," she has written numerous plays, often with a political theme.

She will be joined at the Marsh by Scumbly Koldewyn, of Cockettes fame. Koldewyn, who will accompany Baum on piano, served as her campaign manager in 2004. While she was running for office, Baum was certain she would never write a play, much less a comedy, about her adventures. "It was just too grueling and overwhelming," she says. "Then, when it was all over, it was obvious that I had a combination of skill and experience that no one else had, and I had to do it."

Baum for Peace will run Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. The show is directed by Bobbi Ausubel, with songs composed by Koldewyn and David Hy-



Terry Baum will bare her political soul in her comedic show *Baum for Peace*, playing at the Marsh June 29 through July 22.

man. For tickets, call 800-838-3006 or visit www.themarsh.org. The Marsh is located at 1062 Valencia Street, between 21st and 22nd streets.

Let the Games Begin

If you aren't into the bar scene, it can be hard to find a place to socialize on a Friday night. That's where SF Games comes in. This group of friendly folks meets every Friday evening from 7 p.m. until midnight to play board and card games. The best news is that they're just down the hill from Noe Valley at Muddy's Coffeehouse, located at 1304 Valencia Street near 24th Street. You may meet some neighbors, too. Says spokesman David Kaye, "We've got people from all over the city, so it's a mixed bag, but a number of people live in Noe Valley."

The informal gang has been meeting to play for 11 years, and by Kaye's estimate, they've been gathering at Muddy's for around four to five years. You don't have to know how to play, and all are welcome to bring their favorite games.

For more information, visit the group's web site at www.sfgames.org, or just show up next Friday night.

Summer Art for All Ages

Sign the kids up for a color-filled summer with art classes for children of all ages. Artery, located at 1311 Church Street near 25th Street, is offering an array of fun camps close to home.

A one-week camp for children ages 8 to 11, called "Drawing with Five Big Guys," takes place from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. June 19 through 23. Participants will be inspired by five big 20th-century artists whose works are fascinating to kids: Roy Lichtenstein, Joan Miro, Henri Rousseau, Sol LeWitt, and Chuck Close.

The week of June 26 to 30, young artists ages 12 to 15 can attend a camp where they'll get to design and varnish their own skateboard decks. The completed decks will be works of art, suitable for hanging on the wall.

The afternoons of June 20, 21, and 23, kids ages 7 to 9 can sign up to create cool robots from custom parts, in an ArtBOTS class. Older children, from age 10 on up, can participate in "ArtBOTS Extreme" the afternoons of June 27, 28, and 30.

For more information, including times and prices, call Artery owner Paula Benton, 245-0235, or visit www.arterysf.com.

Volunteer to Help the Homeless

Project Homeless Connect is looking for volunteers to help San Francisco's homeless population. The program, which was founded by Mayor Gavin Newsom, relies on volunteers who gather every month at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium at San Francisco's Civic

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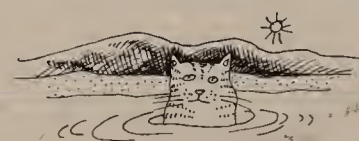
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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Center. Some volunteers go on the streets in teams of two or three offering support to homeless people they meet. Meanwhile, other volunteers staff the auditorium, where they help homeless people connect with a variety of city services.

The most recent Project Homeless Connect event took place on April 13—when more than 1,400 volunteers gathered at the auditorium to serve more than 1,600 clients. The next PHC gathering happens on Friday, June 9, in the same location.

No experience is needed to help out, and many of the regular volunteers are Noe Valley residents, according to public relations volunteer Ed DeMasi. To learn more about specific volunteer opportunities and to sign up for the June 9 event, visit the project's web site at www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com.

A Buggy Reading List

Now that school's out for summer, kids finally have a chance to read just for fun—and the San Francisco Public Library's Summer Reading Club aims to help kids through age 13 enjoy hitting the books. This year's program—"Don't Bug Me...I'm Reading!"—is happening June 17 through Aug. 12, at the Main Library and at all the branches and bookmobiles.

Children who register for the club get to read whatever interests them, including books in languages other than English, and they receive a cool *Don't Bug Me* bookmark. They can also choose from a theme-related reading list that includes picture stories, fiction, and non-fiction books on gardens, plants, flowers, and (of course!) bugs.

A Fitting Memorial for A Fierce Activist

Even in death, Miriam Blaustein is doing good works for Noe Valley, and in particular for the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library's long-awaited renovation. A neighborhood resident for 35 years, Blaustein passed away at the age of 91 in June 2005.

As a longtime member of Friends of Noe Valley, the Gray Panthers, and the leadership of the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School, Blaustein advocated for a host of causes to improve the quality of life in Noe Valley, including establishing a community garden, expanding child-care options, creating a mix of businesses and housing on 24th Street, and improving nutrition for senior citizens. When the neighborhood library was threatened with closure in the late 1980s, she helped run the successful efforts to keep it open.

Blaustein's friends and fans have been raising money to name a display case in the remodeled library in her memory. Their initial goal was \$2,500.

"There's been money coming in off and on, and now we have at least \$2,600 and have decided to go for broke," says Eleanor Gerhardt, who has led efforts to fund a Blaustein memorial. "We're going to earmark some things in the children's library in her honor, too."

Checks should be made out to the Noe Valley Library Campaign (with a note saying they're for the Miriam Blaustein memorial) and mailed to 391 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. If you have any questions or want to make a contribution in person, call Gerhardt at 826-0522.

—Laura McHale Holland

Kids get prizes for reading for a total of two, four, and six hours—and those who read for eight hours and visit the library twice get a grand prize. The library will also offer expanded programming, much of it with a nature theme, for children this summer.

The Summer Reading Club and the other programs are free and open to the public. While the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street is closed for renovation, residents can get their library fix at neighboring branches.

The Bernal Heights Branch is located at 500 Cortland Street, the Mission Branch at 300 Bartlett, and the Eureka Valley Branch at 3555 16th Street. For more information on specific summer events, visit a library branch, call 557-4277, or visit www.sfpl.org.

Election Review by David Binder

David Binder, a political and public opinion analyst with more than 20 years of experience, will give a recap of the June 6 California primary election at the next meeting of the Noe Valley Democratic Club. Binder also will offer his predictions on the November elections, which will include races for California governor and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street.

A popular guest on TV news programs, Binder has appeared on the *CBS Evening News*, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, and *California This Week*. He also has provided commentary for San Francisco's KPIX-TV, KCBS News Radio, and the *Forum* show on KQED Radio. His political punditry pops up frequently in California newspapers, as well as in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Boston Globe*, and *USA Today*. Binder often serves as an independent monitor of election returns for news organizations and election officials.

For information about the event or other activities of the Democratic Club, contact Andy Fleischman at 641-5838.

Wrong Bathroom in LGBT Film Fest

Noe Valley can be proud of its own at Frameline30, the 30th annual San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival. Twenty-eighth Street resident Shani Heckman has directed a film, *Wrong Bathroom*, that will be screened at this year's event.

The short documentary takes viewers on a stroll through restroom politics, blending humor with formal interviews. It is one of 260 features and short films screening at the festival from June 15 until June 25.

The opening film for the fest is *Puccini for Beginners*, a comedy written and directed by Maria Maggenti, who also wrote *The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love*. Frameline's opening-night gala will take place after the screening, and Maggenti will be there. On closing night, the festival wraps up with *Queens*, directed by Manuel Gomez, which focuses on Spain's first mass same-sex wedding.

The festival hosts films at several Bay Area movie theaters, including the Castro Theater, the Roxie, and the CinéArts Empire in West Portal. *Wrong Bathroom* will be shown along with other short films on Sunday, June 18, 1:45 p.m., at the Victoria Theatre on 16th Street.

The Parkway Theater in Oakland is also participating in the festival. For a complete schedule and online tickets, visit www.frameline.org. Tickets are available by phone beginning June 2 at 925-866-9559.

—Erin O'Briant

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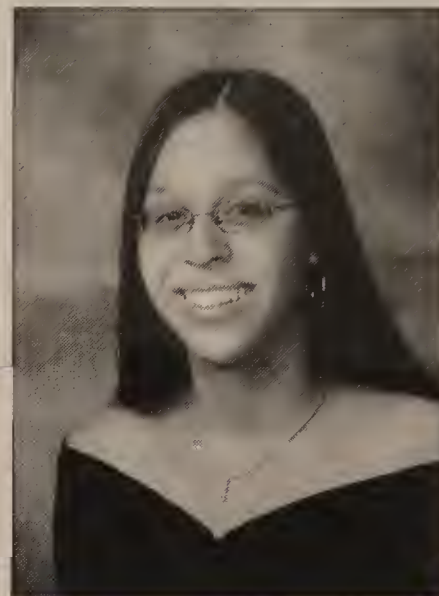
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Scholarship Awards to Two From ICA



Marlena Davis



Casandra Parada

Marlena Davis and Casandra Parada, students at 24th Street's Immaculate Conception Academy, have been selected as 2006 Gates Millennium Scholars by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The pair, from ICA's senior class of 66 students, are among only 1,000 students nationwide so honored. Aside from their high grade-point averages and test scores, students are selected based on their leadership, student government, and athletic skills.

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• JUNE 2006 •

June 1-29: NOE STROLLS offers a "playgroup on wheels" on Tuesdays and Thursdays, departing from Holey Bagel at 11 am. 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

June 1-30: The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60. 12:30 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Res., 648-1030.

June 1-30: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. and Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am; call 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857 for location.

June 2-30: SF GAMES features board and card games on Friday nights, from 7 pm to midnight. Muddy's Coffee House, 1304 Valencia St. www.sfgames.com.

June 3: A BLOCK GARAGE SALE on 25th Street between Sanchez and Noe runs from 9 am to 2 pm.

June 3: Father and son GEOFF and DAN HOYLE perform individually and together to celebrate the 25th year of the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

June 4: Rocket DOG RESCUE has pups who need homes. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

June 4: BEN FONG-TORRES signs and reads from his book on music and pop culture, *Becoming Almost Famous*. 3:30-5:30 pm. Le Zinc French Bistro, 4063 24th St. 626-7512, ext. 103.

June 4-8: A senior adults' GETAWAY at Camp Mather, featuring nature walks, arts and crafts, and dance is sponsored by the city's Rec and Park Department. For information: 666-7079.

June 4-27: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers introductory BUDDHIST MEDITATION classes on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm, and Sundays from 10 to 11:30 am. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

June 5: Children's book authors Abby Wasserman (*Tosca's Paris Adventure*), Chiori Santiago (*Return to Medicine Mountain*), and Barbara Meislin (*No One Can Ever Steal Your Rainbow*) read at the ODD MONDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. No-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm; program, 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. jlsender@webtv.net.



Geoff Hoyle performs with his son Daniel Hoyle (not pictured) Saturday, June 3, at the Noe Valley Music Series.

June 5-28: The Noe Valley Library's BOOKMOBILE will be open for business on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10:30 am to 1 pm. 665 Elizabeth St., in front of St. Philip's School. 557-4343.

June 6: VOTE in the California Primary Election, for governor, senator, and lots more. Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm; call 1-800-345-VOTE for information.

June 6: TANGO No. 9 hosts a CD release party for their latest disk, *Radio Valencia*. 8 pm. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

June 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers weekly MEDITATION CLASSES. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

June 6, 13 & 27: The Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS, for newborns through age 3, are held on Tuesdays at Bethany United Methodist Church. 10:15 am. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

June 6, 13 & 27: Librarians from the Noe Valley Library present PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, for kids 3 to 5, at 11 am. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

June 6-11: The San Francisco BLACK FILM FESTIVAL spotlights local teen directors who are graduates of Omega Boys Club. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. For a schedule, 516-8154 or www.sfbff.org.

June 6-27: Dance San Francisco offers four-session SALSA CLASSES for beginners. Sundays, 4-5:30 pm. Shotwell Studios, 3252A 19th St. 668-9936.

June 6-30: The Bay Area PHOTOGRAPHERS COLLECTIVE exhibits "One Shot." Reception June 10, 2-4 pm. Harvey Milk Photography Center, 50 Scott St. 554-9522.

June 7: PUBLIC ADVOCATES' 35th annual dinner gives "Voice of Conscience" awards to defenders of civil rights; Harvard Law Professor Lani Guinier is the guest speaker. 5:30 pm. The Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Mission and Third. 821-9693.

June 7-18: The Marsh's Festival of NEW VOICES features fresh solo works from up-and-coming performers, including *Rude Boy* by Ismail Azeem and *Don't Let Go of the Potato* by Todd LeJeune. 1062 Valencia St. For a schedule, go to www.themarsh.org.

June 8: St. Luke's Hospital offers an orientation for VOLUNTEERS. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

June 8: Beat Museum Director Jerry Cimino and John Cassady present a multimedia show, "This is the BEAT GENERATION." 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

June 8: A Bird & Beckett BOOK discussion group features Mark Danner's *Secret Way to War: The Downing Street Memo and the Buried History of the Iraq War*, and Eliot Weinberger's *What Happened Here: The Bush Chronicles*. 7:30 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

June 8-15: (Perhaps) Another Hole in the Head hosts an INDIE FEST of horror, sci-fi, and fantasy films at the Roxie Film Center. 3117 16th St. 820-3907; www.sfndie.com.

June 8: A celebration of the writing of KATHY ACKER includes readings from the new collection of her essays, *Lust for Life: On the Writings of Kathy Acker*, and the reissue of *Bodies of Work: Essays*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

June 9: The 11th Project HOMELESS CONNECT, a bi-monthly event to link individuals with social services, needs volunteers—810-0616 or www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com.

June 9: JOSIE ISELIN discusses the creation of her two books, *Beach Stones and Leaves & Pods*, at the San Francisco Center for the Book. 7 pm. 300 De Haro St. 565-0545.

June 9: THOTH performs selections from his "soloopera" *The Festad*, following a screening of the Academy Award-winning documentary *Thoth*. 8:15 p.m. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

June 9 & 10: The 21st annual Irving M. Klein International STRING COMPETITION features 12 cellists, violinists, and violists, age 17 to 23, each performing four works. Friday, 10 am-12:30 pm and 2-5 pm; Saturday, 7-10 pm. McKenna Theater, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave. 282-7160.

June 10: The JUNE PLANT SALE at Strybing Arboretum offers flowering perennials. 10 am-1 pm. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way. 661-1316.

June 10: The first Noe Valley GARDEN TOUR features six unique locations; proceeds benefit neighborhood beautification projects. 10 am-3 pm. Tickets (\$10) available at Cover to Cover, Small Frys, Ladybug Ladybug, Noe Valley Bakery, and the Farmers' Market on 24th Street the day of the tour. Richard May, 602-4445.

June 10: ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE features moves from the 1650s to the present day, with live music by Bangers and Mash; no partner necessary. 7:30-10 pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 821-2645.

June 10: All the original living members of FLIPPER perform at the Elbo Room, along with Total Shutdown and So So Many White Tigers. 9:30 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788.

June 11: The Haight-Ashbury STREET FAIR includes music, food, and arts and crafts. 11 am-5:30 pm. Haight Street between Masonic and Stanyan. www.haightstreetfair.org.

June 11: The quarterly "Table Talk" FORUM at Bethany United Methodist Church features speakers from DCYF, the Mayor's Policy Council on Children, Youth, and Families, Coleman Advocates, and Parents for Public Schools. 1-2:30 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 821-2645.

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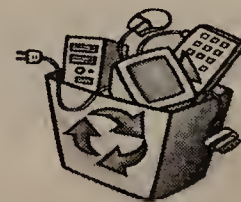
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• CALENDAR •



June 11: San Francisco Animal Care and Control offers a MICROCHIPPING CLINIC for cats and dogs, free to S.F. residents. 1-4 pm. 1200 15th St. 554-6364.

June 12: The task force of the FAMILY RESOURCE Center for the Castro meets at 4 pm at the LGBT Center. 1800 Market St. rachelle.mcmanus@sfgov.org.

June 12: The sixth Progressive READING SERIES features the co-authors of *Crashing the Gate*, Markos Moulitsas Zuniga and Jerome Armstrong, plus Eric Puchner, Samina Ali, Tom Kealey, and Michelle Tea. 6 pm. Makeout Room, 3225 22nd St. 647-2888.

June 13: City College's SUMMER CLASSES begin at James Lick Middle School. 239-3720; www.ccsf.edu.

June 13: New College's law school holds a WORKSHOP on small claims court. 6 pm. 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

June 14: Filmmaker Calvin Roberts discusses "San Francisco's LOST HISTORY, with early footage of the Black Panthers, Mission District politics, and the war in Southeast Asia, hosted by the City Lights Foundation and Counterpulse. 8 pm. 1310 Mission St. 626-2060.

June 15: The heads of HYDRA SOAP introduce their new bath products for the whole family at Peekabootique. 7-9 pm. 1306 Castro St. 641-6192.

June 15-25: The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender FILM FESTIVAL screens at the Castro Theater, CinéArts at the Empire Theater, the Roxie Film Center, the Victoria Theater, and Oakland's Parkway Theater. For more info, www.frameline.org.

June 16-July 22: Visual Aid presents an exhibit, "About STILL LIFE," featuring work by Michael Beck, Kevin Cata (Mooshka), Joe De Hoyos, and Ira Lesser. Reception June 16, 5-8 pm. Space 743, 743 Harrison St. 777-9080.

June 16-Aug. 26: Noe Valley artist Jenny Badger Sultan is one of the artists in "Making Connections: The Society of LAYERISTS in Multi-Media." Reception June 16, 5:30-7:30 pm. Falkirk Cultural Center, 1408 Mission Ave., San Rafael. 485-3438.

June 17: Artist Mona Caron will unveil her BOTANICAL MURAL on the corner of Church and 22nd streets at a noon ceremony; live music by Rupa and the April Fishes, poetry, performance, and speeches by Bevan Dufty and Mark Leno will follow. www.monacaron.com.

June 17: The ROVA SAXOPHONE Quartet performs old and new compositions, in preparation for their upcoming European tour. 8:15 p.m. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

June 17 & 18: The ASIAN ART Museum celebrates its 40th anniversary with free admission this weekend. 10 am-5 pm. 200 Larkin St. 581-3500.

June 17 & 18: The 52nd annual NORTH BEACH FESTIVAL features art and fun in Washington Square Park and along the 1200 to 1500 blocks of Grant and adjacent streets. 10 am-6 pm. 989-2220; www.sfnorthbeach.org.

June 17 & 18: The San Francisco JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION begins with a parade, followed by live entertainment, ethnic food, and vendors. 10 am-7 pm. Fillmore St. between Geary and Fulton; parade begins 11 am at City Hall. 931-2729; www.sfjuneenth.org.

June 17 & 18: CHAMBERDANCE performs Balanchine's "Who Cares?" with the Academy of Ballet. Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 552-1166.

June 18: The STERN GROVE MUSIC FESTIVAL begins its 69th season. www.sterngrove.org.



Thoth will appear at a June 9 screening of the Academy Award-winning documentary *Thoth*, at the Noe Valley Music Series. Photo by Susana Bates

June 18: TANGD No. 9 and Trio Garufa perform at Amnesia; a beginner's tango lesson starts at 8 pm, before the show. 853 Valencia St. 596-6129.

June 19: Goodwill Industries CEO Deborah Alvarez and freelance consultant Willa Seldon discuss their work at the ODD MONDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. No-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm; program, 7 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. jlsender@webtv.net.

June 19: POETS Jack Crimmins and Robin Demers read at Bird & Beckett Books & Records. 7:30 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

June 19-23: In "DRAWING with Five Big Guys," a one-week camp for ages 8 to 11, 20th-century artists Lichtenstein, Miro, Rousseau, Sol LeWitt, and Chuck Close are each studied for a day. 10 am-1 pm. Artery, 1311 Church St. 285-0235.

June 19-Aug. 25: A weeklong ZOO CAMP for kids 4 years old through seventh-grade features animal encounters, crafts, and games. 753-7073.

June 20: Ingleside Police Station holds its regular POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting. 7 pm. Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane. 404-4000.

June 21: Community Care Licensing offers a CHILDCARE LICENSING orientation, 9 to 11:30 am; and a caregiver support workshop at 12:30 pm. Children's Council, 445 Church St. 343-3333.

June 21: Ashkenazi the Pretty Good performs MAGIC for all ages at the Mission Branch Library. 3 pm. 300 Bartlett St. 355-2800.

June 22: UPPER NOE Neighbors meets at 7:30 pm at Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets. 285-0473.

June 22: Alan Miller discusses "ANGEL ISLAND Ecology and History" at the S.F. Natural History Lecture Series at the Randall Museum. 7:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

June 22-Aug. 10: ARTISTS at Creativity Explored exhibit "Nature Rules," paintings, drawings, and sculpture inspired by the natural world. Reception June 22, 7-9 pm; Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm; Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108.

June 24: Celebrate the SUMMER SOLSTICE at a potluck barbecue and seed-swap party. 5-7 pm. Garden for the Environment, Seventh Avenue at Lawton. 731-5627.

June 24 & 25: San Francisco PRIDE 2006 features the Saturday Dyke March (rally, 11 am to 6 pm; march 6 to 11 pm) beginning from Dolores Park; and the Sunday Gay Parade, beginning at 10:30 am at the Civic Center, between Grove and McAllister. 864-FREE; www.stpride.org.

June 24 & 25: The 30th annual FREE FOLK FESTIVAL features folk, blues, and international music, and a craft and food marketplace. Noon-11 pm, Sat.; noon-10:30 pm, Sun. Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello St. www.sffolkfest.org.

June 26: Submission deadline for the juried ALTERED BARBIE 2006 show, to be on exhibit at Red Ink Studios, 989 Market Street, during August. 240-2202, or e-mail jilleele@yahoo.com.

June 26-30: Artery offers "SKATEBOARD Deck Design," a one-week camp for ages 12 to 15. 10 am-1 pm. 1311 Church St. 285-0235.

June 27: The POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting at Mission Police Station starts at 6 p.m. 630 Valencia St. 558-5400.

June 29: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT at Peekabootique features music, refreshments, and conversation. 7-9 pm. 1306 Castro St. 641-6192.

June 29-July 22: Lesbian playwright TERRY BAUM describes her adventures as a Green candidate for Congress in 2004 in *Baum for Peace, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying & Love Democracy*. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 641-0235.

SISS BOOM BAH

The July/August 2006 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* will pop out like a firecracker on July 1, 2006. The deadline for calendar items will be **June 16**. Please note that because of space limitations, Noe Valley events take priority. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send an e-mail to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.

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Noe Valley Faces



joe@JaffaOrangePhoto.com

Romance drew this lad here from his native Ireland. Like many another young fellow, **Philip Pierce** idled away his days happily in Dublin, sharing jokes and tall tales. Then one day, San Franciscan Joan Miller crashed his life. They began an intercontinental courtship via post before he followed her back to Noe Valley and married her 10 years ago. Seems like they loved every minute of it. They are still virtually inseparable, even working for the same *San Francisco Business Times*. "I am a 'customer

retention specialist,'" he says with a grin and a shiver. He picks up the phone at work and dials: "Hello. My name is Philip Pierce. 'Pierce' as in a hole in your eyebrow." With his brogue and his charm, he more often than not convinces his clients to renew their subscriptions.

Meet him outside the office and the 44-year-old Noe Street resident may be engaged in one of his many other delights, such as bird-watching, reading travel books, cooking, or imbibing Belgian ales.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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NO. 1
MAY, 2006

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Give us a break and a book, and we're happy. Newspapers work well too, and we're glad you like this one, as evidenced by your active participation with this page. But we imagine there are a few thousand of you who still haven't showed us where you've traveled. So send your photo prints and caption information today to: *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Please include a phone number in case we have trouble with your handwriting. You can also attach your digital photo (one only, please) to an e-mail and send it to editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Thanks for getting us out of the house.



James Lick Middle School students, parents, and faculty toured Costa Rica in February, and shared their one copy of the *Noe Valley Voice*.



Michael Fasman and Karin Payson showed the news from 24th Street before joining the line of visitors to the Colosseum in Rome.



Betty-Lou Harmon (left) and Nancy Evans took their reading outdoors at the Makalolo Plains Lodge, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.

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You may have been reading and hearing of late about the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco 60 years ago this month. But don't be fooled. You're getting only part of the story.

Oh, sure, you're being told of the struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union over which nations should be admitted to the organization.

You're being told of the struggles among larger and smaller nations over the granting of veto power.

You're being told of Harry Truman's speechmaking and V. M. Molotov's beligerence.

You're being told about how, despite the intense factionalism and eight weeks of wrangling, delegates from 50 countries finally signed the U.N. charter back on June 26, 1945. Very important, those happenings. But that's not all that went on. Not by a long shot. There were two other matters of great importance, both of which happened to me, and both of which have been ignored by the news media in their retellings. There was:

- 1) The riding free on the Muni, and
- 2) The submitting of genuine credentials to steely-eyed guards.

Call me frivolous, but don't argue with me. I was only 12 years old, but I was there and as much a participant in the U.N.'s beginnings as was President Truman. At the time, in fact, I felt my role as a Boy Scout aide to be a bit more important than the role played by Mr. Truman.

And why not? There I was wandering among the world's mighty, catching the eye of them all with my impeccable Boy Scout manners and trappings. I was quite properly outfitted in regulation short pants, of course, and in one of those broad-brimmed campaign hats of the kind favored by Teddy Roosevelt, Smokey Bear, and other celebrated Americans.

But what people particularly noticed, I was certain, was the bright red neckerchief that identified the wearer as one of the 300 indispensable Scout aides at the conference. I had only the slightest idea of what the mighty were talking about. I didn't even bother to ask about the papers I was forever lugging around. (They undoubtedly were part of the many, many drafts that went into the making of the charter, some of the 300,000 sheets of paper that were circulated to delegates daily, in French, Spanish, English, Russian, and Chinese.)

What did it matter anyway, all that talk and all that writing? What mattered was that I could climb aboard a streetcar and ignore the fare box. That I could feel the hot stares of obviously jealous passengers who didn't wear the magical red neckerchief, the ticket to free rides all over town.

What did the talk and writing matter when I could march up to any of some 3,000 military guards, ramrod straight as any of them, and grandly flash my credentials while green-eyed would-be gate-crashers stood glumly by (slouching, of course)?

It warped my life. Almost never have I been able to drop my money into the fare box of a streetcar or bus without enviously recalling a 12-year-old wearing a bright red neckerchief.

And flashing a press card can be a severely depressing experience, when I think of the glorious days when showing credentials really meant something.

I have since learned, however, that Harry Truman did play a more important role in the U.N.'s founding. That, at least, is what I've been told.

Dick Meister is a Noe Valley writer who no longer wears short pants. You are welcome to contact him through his web site, www.dickmeister.com.

By Dick Meister

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of first-person essays. Mail manuscripts to Bylines, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail submissions to bylines@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. Thank you.

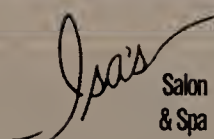


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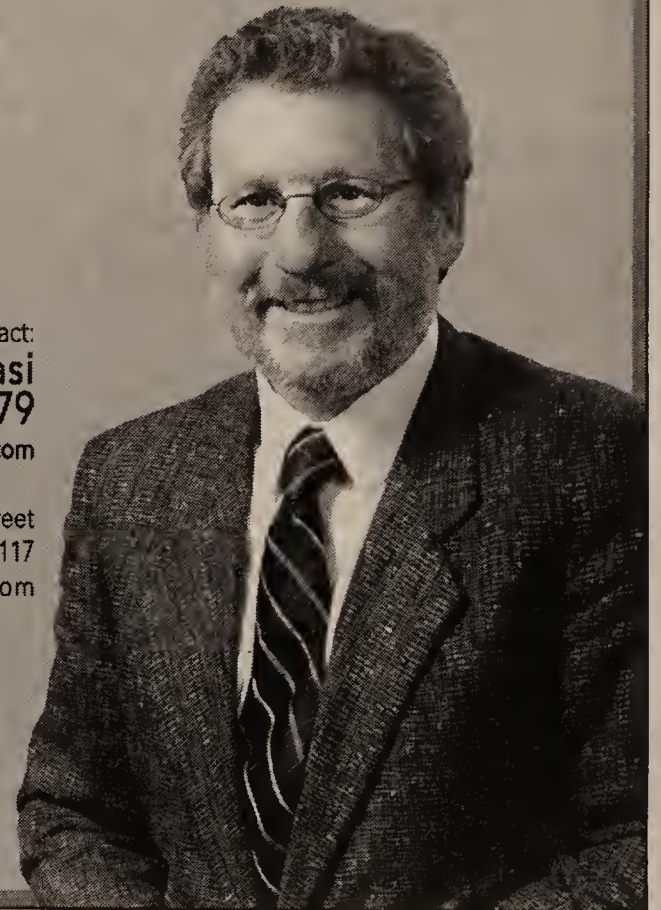
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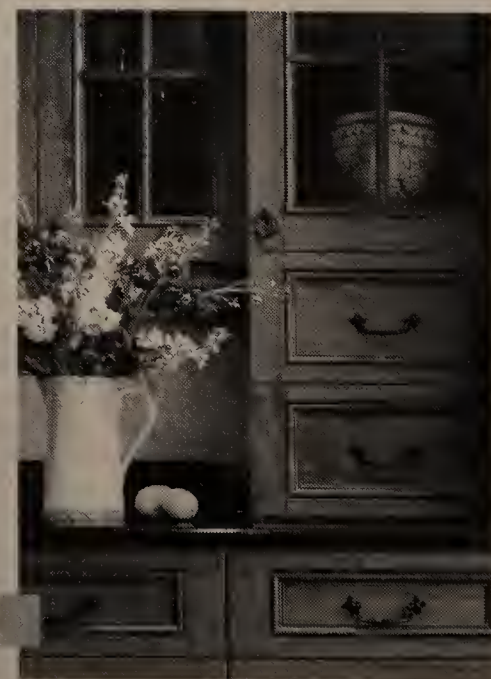
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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

A Sober But Lively Summer

Twenty-first Street resident Florence Holub, 87, remembers her afternoon as a teenage abolitionist in this column reprinted from June 1994.

Here it is almost summer, and I am still carrying around the deposit of cellulite (a polite word for fat) that I acquired this winter during our high-calorie celebrations. I always know that I am in trouble when I can no longer reach down and tie my shoelaces. That's when I begin a more vigorous exercise regimen, in addition to reducing my intake of food.

This year, I added a daily walk to my routine, which produced little success in my battle against the bulge, but a great deal of nostalgia. The portion of my route that goes up Jersey Street is especially loaded with memories. As a child, I spent many hours at the Noe Valley Library, discovering new adventures in reading while my parents were visiting their friends, the Andersons, who lived a few houses up the hill.

Whenever I pass the Andersons' home, I remember the summer of 1933, just before the Prohibition Act of 1920 was repealed, when it was still illegal to manufacture or sell intoxicating beverages.

A few families, including our good Italian neighbors, defied the ban and brewed their own wine for personal use. I remember smelling the telltale aroma of fermenting grapes as I walked by their houses.

But among us Scandinavians, drinking was frowned upon, and no self-respecting individual would dare become inebriated. Sobriety was the order of the day, and liquor was unavailable except through bootleggers.

Even on June 21, when Swede-Finns from all over the Bay Area celebrated the summer solstice at our annual picnic, we abstained.

The picnic gathering of the Star of Finland Lodge was usually held down on the Peninsula, in a privately owned wooded park, equipped with rustic picnic tables and a hardwood deck constructed to withstand vigorous dancing.

Early in the day, automobiles, filled to overflowing with family members, began arriving at the gate, where they paid \$1 per car to enter. The day was well planned, with games and races for the children, followed by competitions for the adults. My mother won first prize in the nail-hammering contest when she pounded the most spikes into a block of wood, greatly impressing my carpenter father!

At midday, we sat down to eat the cold lunch that Mother had prepared: pickled herring, sliced ham, potato salad, pickled beets, bread, and for dessert, strawberry shortcake.

Our family shared a table with the Andersons, and all thoroughly enjoyed the feast—all of us, that is, except my older brother Clarence and his friend Sven, the Andersons' son.

Sven was a blue-eyed, blond-haired, angelic-looking lad, who often misbehaved in order to sully his squeaky-clean image. On this occasion, he and Clarence (who rarely missed a meal)

had disappeared into the woods without so much as a nibble at our repast.

After a while, both my mother and Sven's mother became concerned, and sent me to find the missing boys.



Clarie, Sven, and another friend, Robie, were sitting in a circle around a flat rock, upon which rested a large jug of red wine.

Unable to locate them at any of their usual haunts, I decided to venture away from the crowd and follow a path along a narrow stream edged with bushes. There I stumbled upon the young men, as well as the reason for their absence.

Clarie (my nickname for my brother), Sven, and another friend, Robie, were

sitting in a circle around a flat rock, upon which rested a large jug of red wine. Judging from the boys' woozy appearance, I knew they had sampled more than a little from the vessel. The thought of the serious trouble my brother would be in with our strict father—as well as the shame my mother would suffer should she find out—spurred me to act quickly. I grabbed the jug, lifted it high in the air, and let it go. It crashed on the rock sending little rivers of red into the stream.

Then, leaving the mess for them to clean up, I beat a hasty retreat as an irate Sven yelled after me, "Why did you do that!?"

Back at the picnic table, I found our parents happily chatting over their Swedish coffee cake. Although I was, angry with my brother, I had no intention of informing on him, however, so I kept quiet about what the boys had been up to.

Later that afternoon, as the band tuned up for dancing, the encounter faded as I got caught up in the excitement. Our families had hired a six-piece band that played all the popular tunes of the day—the *schottische*, the hambo, and the polka—as well as jazz and soft melodies for "smooth" dancing.

At dusk, not long after the gatekeeper of the park left his station, hordes of young "gate-crashers" began climbing over the fence to join the festivities. They were all accomplished dancers, and small wonder, for all summer they'd attended every picnic in the park, using the same free-of-charge method of entry.

These lads made for a bountiful selection of ballroom partners, and every young lady luxuriated in a sudden and overwhelming popularity.

When my brother and Robie had recovered enough to ask me to dance, they each expressed gratitude for my interference. They realized I had saved them from disgrace in the eyes of the law-abiding Swede-Finn colony.

But Sven, the procurer of the wine, refused to speak to me, even after the band began its rendition of *Good Night, Ladies*, our signal that the celebration was coming to an end.

Over the ensuing decades, the picnics continued, but with each passing year, fewer families attended. One by one, the lodge members moved out of town or passed away.

Then in the 1950s and '60s, most of the picnic grounds were sold and transformed into residential housing, to accommodate the Peninsula's booming population. This year [1994], as we've done for the past few summers, we will have our celebration at the Finnish Center in Sonoma. The gathering that once drew hundreds will probably muster around 30 people. And there will be no strenuous physical activities because we are all too arthritic.

Thankfully, however, we are not yet ready to start a wheelchair competition!

Nevertheless, it will be a heartwarming pleasure to see our lifelong friends. Over lunch, we will reminisce and discuss such weighty matters as weight and how to lose it (short of starvation). We'll even indulge in a glass of beer or two.

As for Sven, I think he finally forgave me for spoiling his drinking party. About 30 years after the incident, at another family gathering, he thrilled my little son, Eric, by handing him a quarter. I chose to see this as a forgiving gesture!

With regard to my unreachable shoelaces, you might be interested to know that one of my friends has come up with a simple solution. She suggests I switch to slip-on shoes without laces.

It's bending the rules a bit, but if it keeps me from having to bend over, why not?



During Prohibition, Noe Valley's Swede-Finn colony celebrated the summer solstice with footraces, dancing, and a hammering competition.

Illustration by Florence Holub

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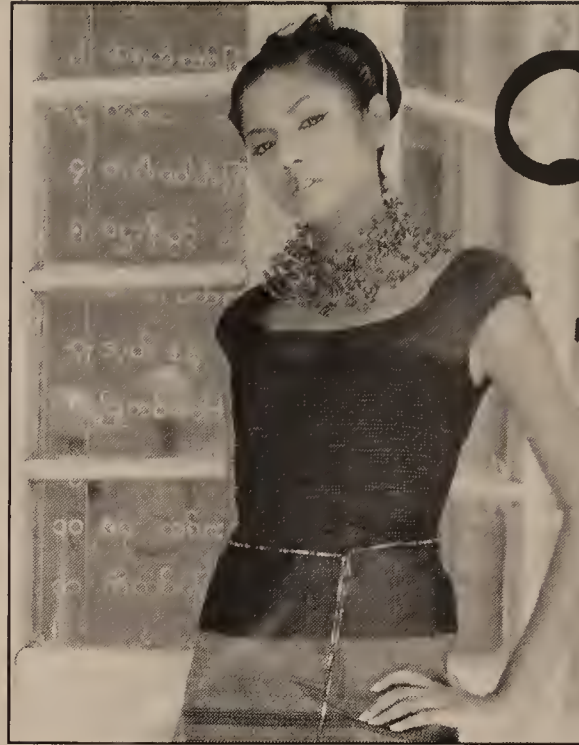


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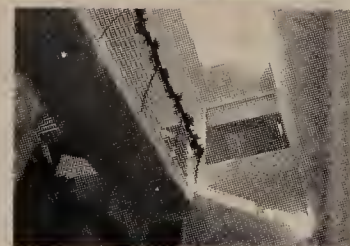
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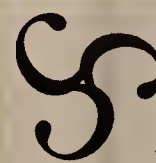
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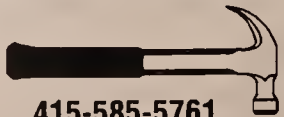
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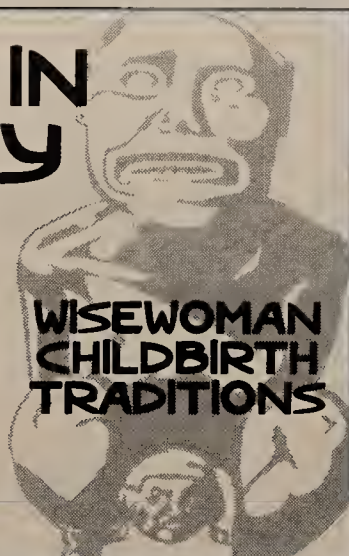
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Photo by Pamela Gerard



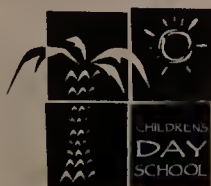
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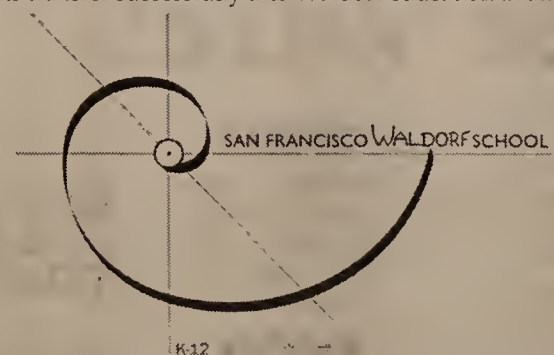
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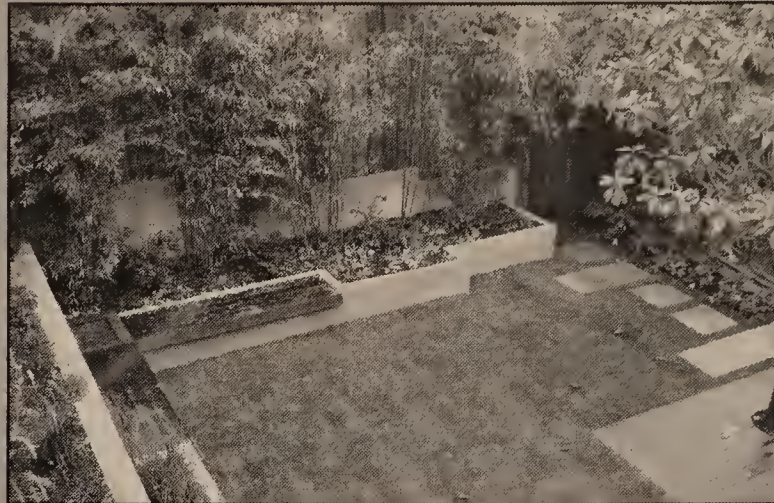
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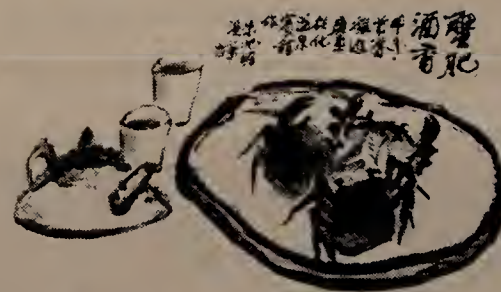
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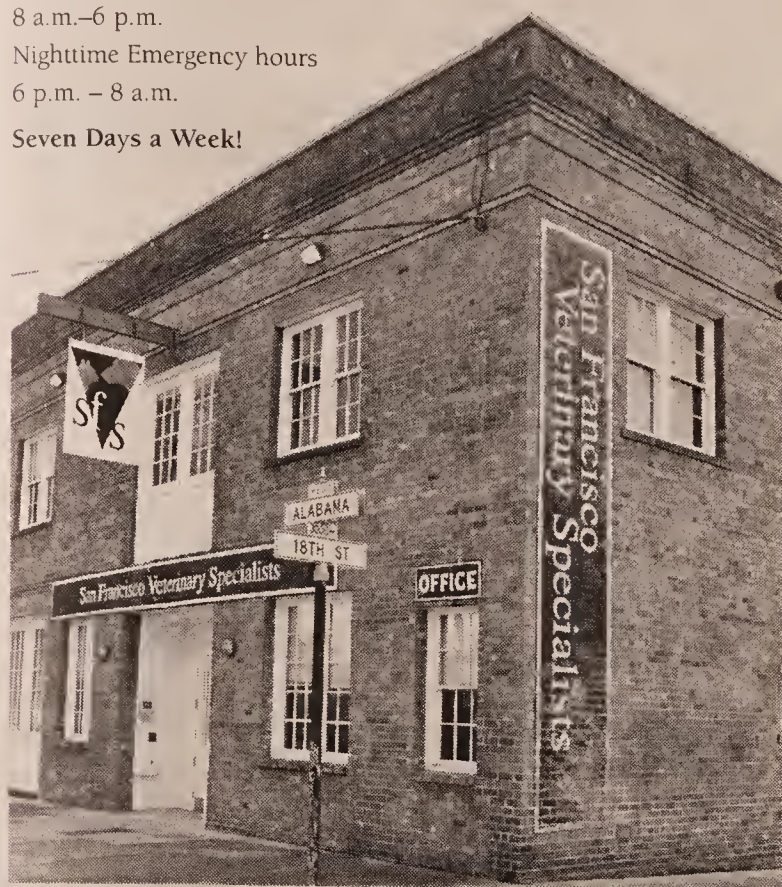
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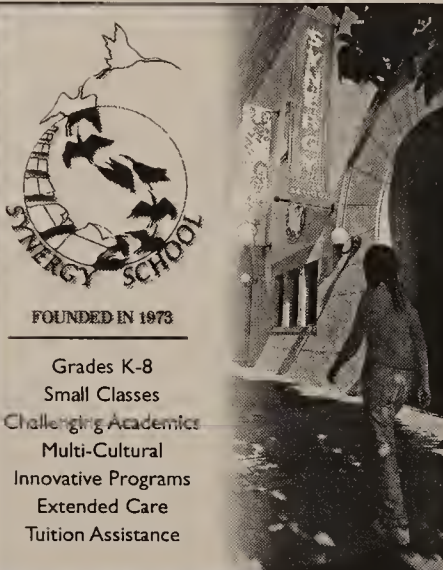
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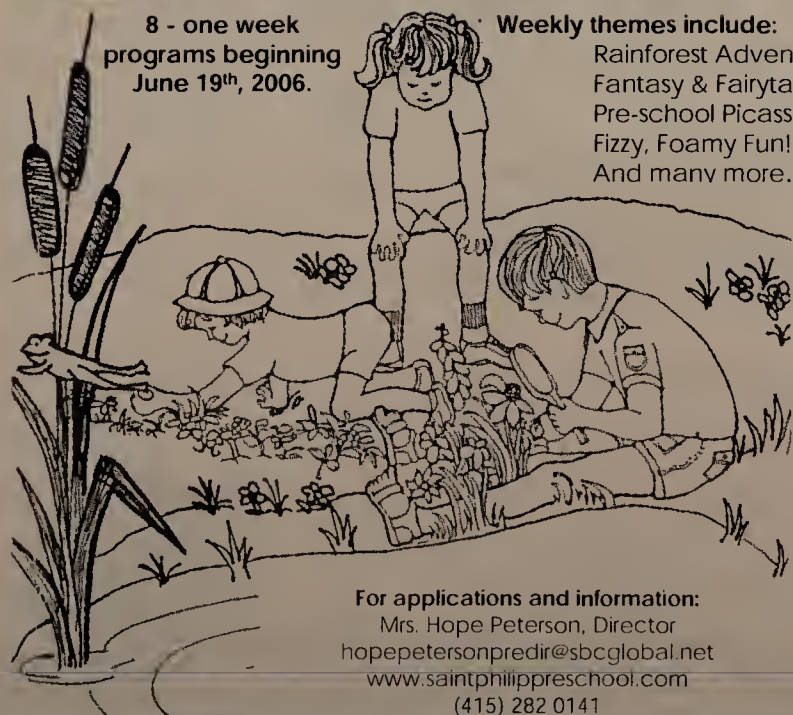
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SCHOOL REPORT

James Lick, Fairmount, and Alvarado School all checked in this month with their campus news.

JAMES LICK

Lick Student Honored by S.F. Giants

On May 12, Willie Mays presented James Lick seventh-grader Reuben Raff with the "Say Hey" Award for Community Service during a Giants game at AT&T Park on Mays' 75th birthday. Reuben was selected from among all the students in the district for the honor, which includes a \$2,400 savings bond.

Peer Resources teacher Sarah Jones describes Reuben as someone who leads by example. "For instance," she relates, "last week we got a new Special Needs student in class. Without asking or prompting, Reuben decided to work with him on a class project. I overheard another student ask Reuben if he knew the new student previously, and Reuben replied no."

Jones says Reuben has been an outstanding conflict mediator and peer educator both inside and outside school. "He has a long history of volunteering for various organizations and causes, such as the soup kitchen. What truly strikes me about Reuben is his sincerity and humbleness in his random acts of kindness. They are not to win approval or recognition. It is, I believe, his internal compass of what is right and wrong that drives him, and his desire to do good in the world." Congratulations, Reuben, and keep on batting a thousand.

Eighth-Graders Moving on Up

After our eighth-graders pick up their diplomas on June 14, members of the Class of 2006 will advance to at least 14 different high schools, with 61 percent qualifying for slots at the city's top academic campuses. According to a chart published in the student newspaper *Uncertain Times*, the most popular destinations for the Class of '06 include Lincoln (28%); Lowell (15%); Washington, SOTA (School of the Arts), and O'Connell (9% each); and Wallenberg and Balboa (6% each). We are very proud of all of our graduates, and wish them great success wherever they go.

Parents Prepare for High School, Too

On May 30, Jeffrey Leiken, a nationally recognized expert and teen mentor, spoke on the topic "Moving From Middle to High School: Guiding Our Teens." Leiken provided parents with a glimpse of what's going on in their kids' minds during this important transition, and shared the latest scientific research on the teen brain. Leiken also emphasized what parents and educators can do to help teenagers live up to their full potential.

A related presentation by our own staff is scheduled for June 6 at 6:30 p.m., when Marna Blanchard and Andy Grimstad will lead "Get Ready for High School Night." The two veteran teachers will share their experience and expertise to help families understand the application and admission process, and place their children in the San Francisco high schools that will work best for them.

Immersion Program Still Growing

The size of next fall's incoming sixth-grade immersion class has increased from 60 to 90 students for the 2006-07 school year. With the continuing expansion of Spanish-immersion

programs in the elementary schools, James Lick is in an excellent position to respond to the increased demand for similar classes at the middle school level.

Music, Talent, Fashion, and Dance!

The legendary James Lick Talent and Fashion Show debuted on May 25 with a matinee for the students, followed by an evening performance for parents and friends on May 26. Mr. Storbeck's guitar students, who only a month ago were seeing their guitars for the first time, amazed everyone by performing covers of Buffalo Springfield and Rolling Stones songs.

Thanks are due to after-school program director Lina Hancock, Ms. Mathews, and Ms. Lim for organizing and producing this highly anticipated event; to all the students who auditioned and performed; and to the many volunteers who helped to make it happen.

Only a day later, many of the same James Lick families were at work building a float for the annual San Francisco Carnival Parade, while a thundering contingent of drummers, 80 elaborately-costumed dancers, and numerous in-line skaters practiced their steps and rhythms in preparation for the big event, held Sunday, May 28. Following the parade, families returned to the school for an End of Year Potluck Picnic—to play games, jump rope, dismantle the float, eat, and say goodbye to our departing eighth-grade families.

Time to Thank Our Volunteers!

Parent liaison Maria Camposeco extended her appreciation to all the parents who helped out during the school year, most recently during the annual period of standardized testing, when parent volunteers brought in, sliced and diced, and distributed more than 500 healthy snacks every day. Not only did they help our students stay focused, but they gave the kids the message loud and clear: you have our support and we want you to succeed.

Camposeco recognized parents Suzie Balenzuela, Leonor Jackson, and Daisy Hernandez for showing up early every day and helping to coordinate the distribution. She also thanked the members of the Latino Families Club and the James Lick PTSA, who have been so generous with their time throughout the school year; and Foods Co., Good Life Grocery, Bell Market, Carcione's Fresh Produce, and Noah's Bagels for their generous contributions to our youth.

—Sue Cattoche

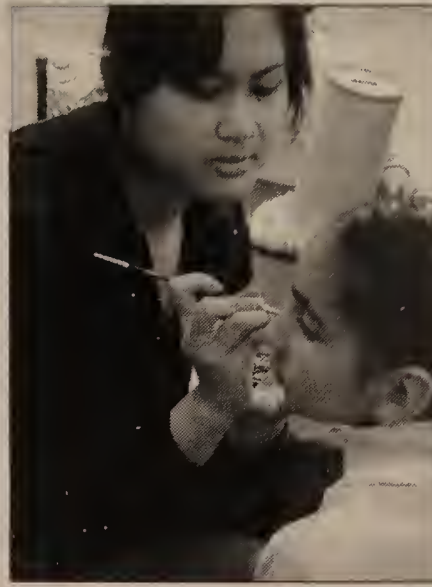
FAIRMOUNT

FiestaVal Raises \$40,000 for Arts

Saturday morning May 20 began cloudy with a forecast for rain, but the day soon exploded into sunshine as parents, kids, staff, and community members came to celebrate another outstanding year at Fairmount's annual party, FiestaVal.

Hundreds of attendees witnessed a wide variety of student performances, sponsored by the money raised each year at FiestaVal. Ballet Folklorico, featuring colorful Mexican costumes, delighted the crowd, as did the performance by the ballroom dance class. The Falcon Choir, under the direction of Vernon Bush, sang a series of songs in English and Spanish, and beckoned the enthusiastic audience to join in. The student guitarists showed their continuing development under the tutelage of their music teachers.

Capping the biggest springtime fiesta ever held at Fairmount, Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort proudly declared: "Our students were able to demonstrate where the money goes and the value of



Second-grader Lupe Torres (top) gets her face painted by a volunteer artist from Galileo High School while fourth-grader Rebecca Hughes demonstrates the art of finger puppetry, at Fairmount's spring fundraiser, FiestaVal.

Photos courtesy Tom Ruiz and Lourie Wigham

the programs we are funding. The performances of the different groups showed that giving children the opportunity to shine in the artistic arena will support them in their academic learning. As they learn to focus through art, they also learn to focus on academic content areas."

More than \$40,000 was raised through a mix of activities, including a silent auction featuring many services and meals donated by Noe Valley merchants and restaurants, as well as a public auction of student-made crafts from each grade. Games, food sales, and raffle ticket sales of more than \$8,000 contributed to the total. The largest single auction item raised \$5,000 for a banquet dinner for 50 people at the Chenery House mansion next door, donated by Fairmount neighbor and political philanthropist Bob Pritikin. Another hot item was a 30-minute private tour of City Hall and the mayor's office, conducted by none other than His Honor Gavin Newsom.

Big people and small people, speaking many different languages, shared the homemade papusas and other international cuisine as they listened to the student performers. The experience was another reminder of how lucky they were to be a part of the Fairmount school community.

A Boost for Before and After School

Next year marks the beginning of a major initiative to support a unified before- and after-school program to support the needs of Fairmount's working families. Using combined funding sources from the school district, the PTA, the school site council, and a sliding-scale tuition, two formerly separate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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SCHOOL REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

programs will be merged to provide high-quality academic support and enrichment activities for all Fairmount students who need them. A major addition will be the expansion of the before-school program, which provides supervised activities and breakfast each morning beginning at 7 a.m.

The new program will be administered by the non-profit organization Growth and Learning Opportunities (GLO), which has run the Fairmount After School program over the past five years. GLO has also committed additional resources to kick-start the first year of the program. Added to the mix will be the Amigos program, which is currently funded by the school district. The Mayor's Department of Children, Youth, and Families has signaled its support with a grant, and the school hopes to raise an additional \$30,000 to continue to develop a model program that could be replicated at other sites.

—Tom Ruiz

ALVARADO

Last Chance to Boogie Down

Don't expect the folks at Alvarado to slow down just because the school year is almost over—they're planning another dance party! So get ready to put on your dancing shoes on Friday, June 9, for the third annual Boogie Night. The end-of-the-year dancing celebration starts at 9 p.m., and there's no telling

when it will end.

Alvarado parents, teachers, and staff will have a get-down, groovy time celebrating all the hard work done this year. They'll also give goodbye hugs to the teachers and staff, and say *hasta la vista* to all the graduating families. Everyone will have fun dancing to disco, Motown, salsa, swing, hip-hop, and more, played by Alvarado's own in-house deejays. There will be a rotating king-and-queen dance for the "graduating" teachers, staff, and parents who have done so much for the school. Let's give them all a shout-out and final hurrah! Tickets for the adults-only event go on sale June 5 to 9 at the school.

Spring Fair at James Lick

As we go to press, Alvarado families are busy making final preparations for the annual Spring Fair (also known as Spring Carnival) on Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Due to construction at the Alvarado site, this year's Spring Fair will take place at James Lick Middle School—but this year only! Be sure to stop by for some great food, fun, games, and fabulous prizes! Your support of this event will help us continue to bring arts, sciences, and other enrichment activities to our students.

Brunch to Honor Volunteers

The Alvarado School staff will be providing brunch for our wonderful parent and community volunteers on Friday, June 9, from 8 to 9 a.m., in the Motor Skills Room. We'd be lost without their tireless support!

Benefit for Clay Program

Last month, the clay artists at Ruby's Clay Studio on Noe Street presented a Teapot and Tea Bowl Show and Sale as

a benefit for the Alvarado School clay program. The show was up from May 17 through May 30, with a "tea party" reception on May 21 to raise money for our school.

The Velvet Hammer

On May 25, the Alvarado PTA grant writing committee hosted their second annual Velvet Hammer event at Onramp Studios to thank all those who have supported Alvarado Elementary School in the past, and to introduce new people and organizations to the programs provided by the Alvarado PTA.

Paul Lanier Leaving Alvarado

After nine years as artist-in-residence, clay artist Paul Lanier will be leaving Alvarado at the end of this school year. In a letter to the Alvarado community, Lanier wrote: "The time has come for me to return to my other studio to concentrate on my own artwork. I am very proud of the work we have accomplished together and all of the fantastic arts programming that has benefited our children. I believe that the high quality of our arts programs, and in particular our clay program, was a significant contributor to the success of our school and to the fact that we are now one of the most highly sought after elementary schools in the city. I hope that you will all continue to advocate for the Alvarado Arts program, which focuses on the hiring of professional artists to teach our students.

"The opportunity to work in clay is so valuable to our students. They love clay, they make great pieces, the material is unique in how it introduces complex three-dimensional geometry and proportions as part of their early understanding of their physical world. It also enriches their academic experience."

Lanier's mother, sculptor Ruth Asawa, was a pioneering advocate for the arts at Alvarado in the late 1960s, and helped build the school's outstanding arts program. After assisting in the selection of a new clay artist for the school, Lanier hopes to expand on his experience with public and private art projects and commissions.

School Ends June 15!

On June 14, we'll say goodbye to our graduating fifth-graders, and school will end for the rest of our students on June 15. As the year comes to a close, we would like to thank the parents, teachers, and staff for all their hard work that has made this such a great year at Alvarado. Have a great summer and see everyone in the fall!

—Lisa Barry and Sue Cattoche



SCHOOL CONTACTS

James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
415-695-5675 or 415-436-0349
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal

Fairmount Elementary School
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

An in-depth look at the Wal-Mart corporation and the story of brothers Edwin and John Wilkes Booth are among the San Francisco Public Library books highlighted this month by children's librarian Pam Ow and *Noe Valley Voice* hookworm Karol Barske. If you'd like to see if a book is available, call your favorite branch or visit the Library's web site, www.sfpl.org. You may also flag down the city's bookmobile, which is parked in front of St. Philip's School at Elizabeth and Diamond streets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Note: The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street, is closed for seismic repairs until late 2007. For more information, call 557-4353.

PICKS OF THE MONTH

Adult Fiction

◆ In her apocalyptic fable *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart*, PEN/USA Award-winner Lydia Millet imagines the three geniuses whose work led to the invention of the atomic bomb—J. Robert Oppenheimer, Enrico Fermi, and Leo Szilard—displaced in time to July 16, 1945, when the first mushroom cloud rose over New Mexico.

◆ Civilization is nearly destroyed when "The Pulse" is transmitted through cell phones, in Stephen King's latest thriller, *Cell*.

◆ A young girl's wild overnight odyssey ends with a tattoo, in Michelle Tea's *Rose of No Man's Land*.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ Joan Didion's memoir, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, examines her grief after the death of her husband, which occurred during a time when the couple's daughter was extremely ill, lying in the hospital in a coma.

◆ Charles Fishman looks at the history and future impact of Sam Walton's megastore, in *The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works—And How It's Transforming the American Economy*.

◆ Stephen Singular analyzes how Dennis Rader eluded capture for 31 years, in *Unholy Messenger: The Life and Crimes of the BTK Serial Killer*.

—Karol Barske
Noe Valley Voice staff

Children's Fiction

◆ Simon James' *Baby Brains Superstar* finds the electric guitar-playing, rock-'n'-rolling baby genius performing on stage at the biggest music concert ever. *Ages 3 to 7.*

◆ Cool cats Chato and Novio Boy win a cruise vacation, but it's a ship filled with dogs, in the colorful and humorous *Chato Goes Cruising* by Gary Soto, illustrated by Susan Guevara. *Ages 6 to 8.*

◆ Third-grader Owen is determined to win the school science fair prize, but he must overcome some setbacks and personal issues when working with his best friend, Joseph, in *Owen Foote, Mighty Scientist* by Stephanie Greene. *Ages 7 to 9.*

Children's Nonfiction

◆ Meet two color-changing panther chameleons from Madagascar, as well as geckos and other creatures, in Joy Cowley's *Chameleon, Chameleon*, vividly photographed by Nic Bishop. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ *Rosa* by Nikki Giovanni introduces young readers to Rosa Parks' personal act of civil disobedience, as a spark for change during the civil rights movement. Bryan Collier's watercolor and collage illustrations earned the Caldecott Honor Award and the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Medal. *Ages 8 to 10.*

◆ James Cross Giblin's *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth* is a highly readable and thorough dual biography of Edwin, a renowned actor, and John, an actor infamous for his assassination of President Lincoln. *Ages 11 and up.*

—Children's Librarian Pam Ow
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library

LIBRARY EVENTS

Stories & Lapsits

Bethany United Methodist Church, at the corner of Sanchez and Clipper streets, is now offering space for the Noe Valley Library's weekly programs for children. This month's *lapsits*, for newborns to 3-year-olds, will be held Tuesdays, June 6, 13, and 27, at 10:30 a.m. *Preschool story time*, for kids ages 3 to 5, takes place a half-hour later, at 11 a.m.

Meanwhile, the Eureka Valley and other local libraries, along with the Main Branch, host a variety of lapsits, lectures, and special events, for both children and adults. Go to www.sfpl.org for complete listings.

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Mission Branch Library
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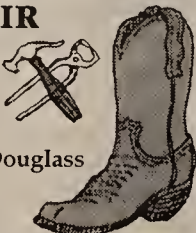
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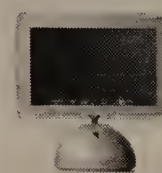
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The next *Voice* will be the July/August 2006 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before July 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is June 17, 2006.** The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper edition and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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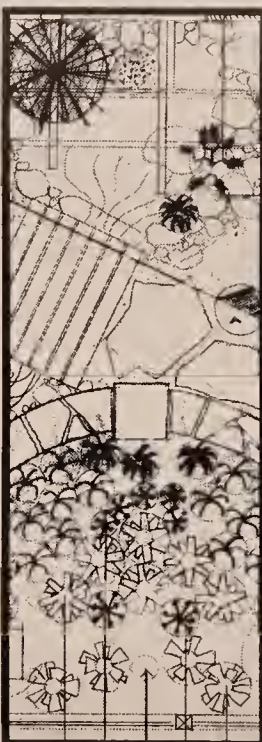
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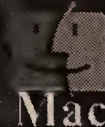
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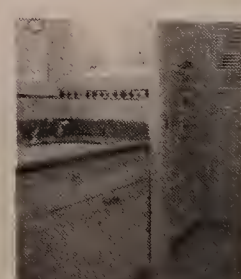
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Supermarket Shakeup

By Mazook

BELLS ARE RINGING: The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) has learned that the deal for the takeover (from Ralphs/Kroger) of Bell Market by the Harley Delano group has hit a major snag. Suddenly it's back to the drawing board: Ralph's trucks are once again making regular stops to stock up the store, the parking lot monitor is back at his post, and the grocery staff is on edge again.

It appears—although no one will comment—that just before Memorial Day weekend, negotiations with the employees union, Local 648 UFCW, broke down, and the Delano group backed off.

The NVBI contacted our man on the Board of Supervisors, Bevan Dufty, who said he suspected that the hitch was the workers' pension rights. However, in late May Dufty still had a shred of hope that talks would revive. "It's not over yet," he said, "and I would still give the deal a chance. So don't give up yet."

If this deal falls through, Kroger will be looking for other bidders to take over operation of the eight remaining local stores—six in San Francisco and two in Marin—in the rapidly shrinking Ralphs chain. (It once boasted 250 supermarkets, 53 of them in northern California.)

That could spell trouble for the loyal staff at our Bell, since there is a possibility that a non-union grocer could come in, close the store down, and then reopen

with all new workers. Or, worse, Kroger could simply decide to shutter the stores.

That last scenario seems unlikely, however, since our Noe Valley Bell Market was once the most profitable per square foot of any store in the Ralphs chain.



PROGRESS MARCHES ON: Supervisor Dufty is happy to report that he has been advised by DPW project manager Jorge Alfaro that Trico Construction has won the bid to renovate the Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street. He points out that Trico, which was one of three bidders, was the firm that renovated the West Portal Branch Library. "I am pleased that this well-regarded firm will do the work and that DPW's estimates were within 1 percent of the \$6.7 million bid."

Dufty says the Recreation and Park Commission should approve the contract this month, and work should begin sometime in September. The project is expected to take about 18 months. "This is a great start, and we have a star in Jorge Alfaro, our project manager," Dufty beams. If any of you have questions, call Dufty's aide Rachele at 554-6986.

Dufty helped officiate at a May 19 gala and awards ceremony at Sterling Bank, sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Three venerable Downtown Noe Valley businesses were honored: Common Scents, Cradle of the Sun, and Astrid's Rabat Shoes.

Linda Raney and her Common Scents partner, Helen Norris, have been in the business of lotions and potions (and soaps and shampoos) at 3920 24th Street for 35 years. We definitely wouldn't smell as sweet without them. Dan Gamaldi and his wife Elaine opened the stained-glass emporium at 24th and Vicksburg in 1977. They've been making windows, finishing glass, and giving art classes ever since. Astrid Rabat's manager, Veronica



Merchants Go to the Races: A group of Noe Valley merchants, including Isa Muhawieh, Tony Lyau, Diane Barrett, Carol Yenne, Bob Roddick, and Richard Hippard, was on hand to cheer Lost in the Fog and his world-famous jockey, Russell Baze (center), at Golden Gate Fields on April 22. Unfortunately, the colt belonging to Harry Aleo (not shown), came in second. But hopes are high he'll win at the Aristides Sprint June 3. Photo courtesy Golden Gate Fields

Ruedrich, accepted the award for her store (24th and Sanchez), which has spent 30 years keeping the feet of Noe Valley stylish (I got some Frye Boots there in 1978).

Around 100 people showed up at the ceremony, including City Treasurer Jose Cisneros and Jordanna Thigpen, president of the S.F. Small Business Commission. Merchants President Carol Yenne says she was delighted by the turnout and wants to send a special thanks to the folks at Sterling Bank for hosting the event.



A RACE FOR FOOD: Tyler MacNiven, half of the "hippie" duo who won \$1 million in CBS' *Amazing Race 9* (BJ and Tyler), was spotted in Noe Valley last month. Tyler lives down on the Peninsula but visits his brother Dylan, who lives in Noe Valley at 23rd and Sanchez.

Some of you know Dylan, who moved

to the neighborhood last year and tried to find a location in Noe Valley to open a new restaurant. The MacNivens brothers' parents operate the popular eatery Buck's in Woodside.

Dylan gave up in Noe Valley, but found a location over the hill in Eureka Valley at 14th and Market. His restaurant is called Woodhouse Fish Company—check it out.



A HORSE, OF COURSE: Speaking of amazing races, local equine hero and national celebrity Lost in the Fog is scheduled to race at Churchill Downs Race-track in Louisville, Ky., on Saturday, June 3, in the \$150,000 Aristides Breeders' Cup Handicap six-furlong sprint.

According to Fog's owner, local real

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

estate purveyor Harry Aleo, this is an important race for the 4-year-old colt. Having lost his last two races—last year's Breeders Cup and his first race of the year, at Golden Gate Fields on April 22—"this is the moment of truth for Lost in the Fog," says Aleo. "But we think that he will do just fine on this track, even though he will be carrying 5 to 15 pounds more than the other horses in the race. He's ready for the race." Aleo, well into his 80s, is also rooting for another horse he owns, Victorina, who is racing at Churchill Downs in the Dogwood Stakes, a one-mile race for 3-year-olds. "That is a horse I am very optimistic about. Victorina was the family name of our [Italian] neighbors, when my parents had the grocery store in the 1930s on Diamond just off 24th Street."

☎ ☎ ☎

BEST OF THE FESTS: Local celebrity Norine Maloney has agreed to be the take-charge person for the second annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival, scheduled for Oct. 21. Many of you know Maloney as chief organizer of the St. Philip's Festival for the past seven years. She's also been president of the St. Philip's PTA for four years, and describes herself as "a stay-at-home mom and a crazed volunteer."

"I have four children ranging in age from 4 to 32. Since this is the first year I have had a break at the school, I decided to help put on the Harvest Festival, which was just great last year," says Maloney.

Maloney and her husband Shawn have lived on Hill Street for 10 years. Their last stop was New York City. "He's great," she says. "He asks me, 'Where can I go and how can I help?' So we keep pretty busy."

Maloney is already excited about the Harvest Fest, and wants to get the word out about the kids poster contest. Like last year, the festival committee is looking for kids to submit their entries for a poster to advertise the fair, which will be on 24th Street from Church to Sanchez. The deadline for entries will be July 31, so, kids, start sharpening those colored pencils.

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WHO WANTS TO BE PRESIDENT? Hearts were racing last month as word spread that Carol Yenne might not stay for a fifth term as president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Profs Association.

"It's time for me to step back and take a break, and time for new blood in the leadership of our group," says Yenne.

During Yenne's tenure, the Merchants Association has been instrumental in creating the Noe Valley Community Benefit District, in expanding the parking on Castro and 24th streets, and in changing the restrictions on restaurants (we can now have three more on 24th!). With other neighborhood groups, the NVMPA cosponsored and developed the Harvest Festival, which has turned into an annual street fair (see above), and published a guide to Noe Valley businesses.

Who the next Merchants leader will be is currently under discussion among the membership. A new slate of officers will be presented at the association's next meeting, on Wednesday, June 28, 9 a.m., at Joe's 24th Street Café.

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BACK TO THE GARDEN: After a six-year run, Yukio Iwamura has closed Art Garden, his small Asian arts and furniture store on Cesar Chavez near Church Street.

"I was working all the time, every day," says Iwamura. "Now I want to do something new, maybe export American collectibles overseas." He says he is moving his residence and work space to a large

space in San Bruno, where he'll collect and restore old furniture. Ironically, instead of importing Japanese artifacts to Noe Valley he will now be exporting American art from San Bruno to Japan. "It's just the opposite," he laughs.

"I want to thank my many Noe Valley customers," Iwamura continues. "The people here have very good taste."

And what will fill Art Garden's space? Look for an expansion of the Noe Valley Pet Company, which operates next door.

Meanwhile, down Church Street to Duncan, the city is taking extraordinary measures to alleviate the double-parking crunch outside Martha's Coffee. In response to neighbors' complaints, Dufty, in concert with the Department of Parking and Traffic, has introduced a measure that would add a 10-minute green zone (two parking spots) on the Duncan Street side, but only from 6 to 9 a.m.

"We are busy in the morning starting at around 6 a.m., and it stays pretty busy until 9 a.m.," says Martha's manager, Ivonne Mariel. "We have been trying to make sure no one blocks our neighbors' driveways, because we do understand how they feel." She says the parking control officers usually give warnings before handing out tickets, but drivers should avoid tempting fate.

Hearings will be held the first week of June.

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SHORT SHRIFTS: Castro Computer will be moving soon, and the storefront will be transformed into a restaurant, with the chef and his family moving upstairs in the residential unit—a true neighborhood restaurant. Meanwhile, Noe Valley Computer at Church and Clipper has closed.... Rosa Goes Shopping, which replaced Chatterbox on Church near 24th, has folded in less than a year, and the rather small space will be taken over by a children's clothing store called Les Pe-

tits Nourious (or similar spelling), which means the little teddy bears.

Koichi and Hiroka Tamano will soon open Tamasei Sushi in the spot where Matsuya used to be, on 24th Street near Vicksburg.... The Last Laugh Coffeehouse, on Dolores at Valley, is expanding its hours and menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Owners Kristen Adams and husband Bill Schwartz (a musician from Those Darn Accordions) say they'll be offering hot food, salads, and eventually beer and wine.

The rumor that Mia was going to reopen her flower shop, located on Church Street near 27th, is not true. The building has now been listed for sale.

Shufat, contrary to what you read here last month, is not a town in Jordan but rather a suburb of Jerusalem.

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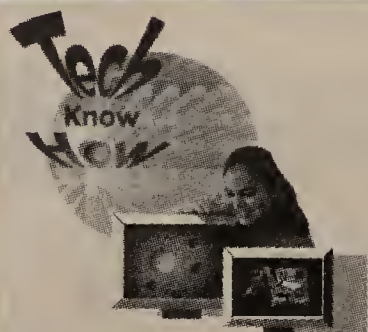
LOCAL COLOR: Check out the new mural on the west wall of Martha's Coffee on 24th Street. It was created by Noe Valley artist J. Arthur Milestone, who started getting his morning coffee there in 1984, when it was known as San Francisco Coffee. Milestone says that the 35-foot-by-31-inch mural, depicting coffee beans traveling from Nicaragua to Martha's shop, is "a mixed media on canvas painted digitally and then printed on canvas. I worked on it since October of last year and just finished installing it last month." Can you identify the fireman who is the recipient of the brewed coffee at the end of the storyboard? Also, can you see where Milestone has hidden an image of Abraham Lincoln (which he says he does on every work of art he creates)?

Milestone will be having a show of other works of his, at Martha's on 24th Street beginning June 16.

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THAT'S 30 for this month. Congrats to all the grads in our local schools. Ciao.

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- REALIZE THE POTENTIAL -



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Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for information. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Richard May, 206-0231
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the month (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772
E-mail: christina_goebel@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
Weekly Strolls: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg. Stroll tours Noe Valley, the Castro, and the Mission. Membership free. To join, and for more details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 6 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102
Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kervin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890
E-mail: mindytower@aol.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.



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THE LAST PAGE

First Call at Clooney's Bar

Rising and shining at 26th & Valencia with the early-morning beer-and-a-shot crowd

BY MICHAEL WYATT

Michael Wyatt is a computer repairman, pub denizen, and unrepentant coffee-shop slacker who has lived in Noe Valley for eight years. An aspiring writer, he currently operates Flying Bovine Computing Services (www.flying-bovine.com) from his studio apartment on 24th Street.

Wednesday morning. 5:45 a.m. The soft glow of incandescent lighting is absent from most bedroom windows, as soundly-sleeping commuters won't take their first poke at the snooze button for another 15 minutes. Restaurants have their lights off. Newspapers line porches. Coffee shops aren't open, but crews are gearing up for the first wave. Only doughnut shops boast unlocked doors and wares for sale. Cab drivers circle the area in vain, casting hard glances at anyone on foot. Eggs are not cooking. Bacon is not frying. The thought of morning coffee won't enter most people's heads for another half-hour or so. But meanwhile, a spattering of drinking establishments is gearing up to open as soon as the law allows. And while countless alarm clocks begin dutifully awakening the city, the patrons of these establishments are bellying up to the bar for first call.

Clooney's Bar, Valencia Street, Wednesday Morning, 5:50 a.m.

Muddy Waters coffee shop across the street had yet to brew its first latte, but eight people patiently awaited the opening of Clooney's Bar at 26th and Valencia. One was an older man who kept to himself. The others were 20-something partiers, all carrying half-full beer bottles and chatting a mile a minute in thick Irish accents. They talked of travel...of places in Europe. Two of the men were studying international law, and one would be headed to Italy within the next two weeks. I gave the crowd a looking-over...young, fresh faces, the men well groomed and the girls still dressed in last night's party attire.

At five minutes till, there were no signs of life from within the bar, and no signs of the morning's bartender getting ready to open up shop. One of the girls in the crowd asked, "Does this establishment open in a timely fashion?" I shrugged, and we both got ready for what could be a long wait.

Not much later, the sound of a turning lock rattled from within the darkened interior. Heads turned, conversation stopped, and beer bottles quickly scattered out of eyeshot. The door opened, and out spilled the aroma of chlorine and detergent, barely evaporated from last night's cleaning. I followed the older man inside and took my seat at the bar. 6:01 a.m. Clooney's was open for business.

Our bartender didn't exactly fit my image of who I'd expect to find mixing highballs at the crack of dawn. Walking along Valencia Street, I'd envisioned a grizzled ex-Marine with Vietnam-era tattoos and a grin reminiscent of a mischievous uncle smuggling firecrackers into a Fourth of July picnic. Instead, we were greeted by Dan, an energetic type in his mid-30s whose energy level exceeded that of a game show host. Dan bounced off the walls, joking loudly through his toothy smile as he took orders and mixed the first cocktails of the day.

When he spoke of a long affiliation with the bar, I asked him about it. Dan shifted gears for a few seconds, tempering his gleeful smile with a hint of heartfelt affection as he pointed to a large photo on the wall and announced, "That's my family." "The Clooney Family, 1943" read a pasted-on caption that pre-dated the earliest version of Adobe Photoshop by more than

40 years. The people standing in the picture had their names pasted below in a similar fashion. Next to the portrait was another photo, showing the grand opening of Clooney's Bar in 1938.

Dan was more than happy to fill me in on the history of Clooney's. His great-grandfather, Lawrence Clooney, had originally opened the pub in 1938 at the corner of Second and Minna. Somewhere in the mid-'80s the bar was moved to the Valencia Street location.

For a long time, Dan used to open the bar at 8 a.m., but all too often he found patrons standing outside, waiting. "I always was a morning person, and it didn't take me long to realize that I was missing out on two hours of business every day," Dan chortled as he mixed a highball for a customer across the bar.

I asked Dan if he ever spent mornings alone tending Clooney's at 6 a.m., to which he replied with a definite no. "There are always people down here as soon as I open. If I don't open on time, my customers will call me at home asking if I'm okay."

Dan mentioned that his early risers usually thinned out by 9 or so. "From 9 a.m. till 11 it's dead. But then the lunch crowd starts drifting in."

At 6:45 I ordered my second round, confessing to Dan that I'd intended to have one beer before migrating up to Martha's for coffee on 24th Street. "The coffee shop..." he said in a friendly tone while sprouting the widest grin I'd seen all morning. "It ain't the same...."

The man to my left started off with a beer and a shot. After quickly scanning the beer taps, I had Dan pour me a pint of Anchor Steam. The Irish crowd all ordered bottles of Magners, fired up the jukebox, and immediately took control of the pool table. Absent were the dejected faces I'd expected to see, the wretched masks of loneliness that housed tortured souls wishing nothing more than intoxicants with which to soothe their woes. To the contrary, the

crowd looked ready to kick back, shoot pool, and enjoy the morning.

Michael was a politically savvy young man studying international law. He spoke with passion when he expressed his ambition of returning to Ireland to work with the political process, hopefully to make his homeland into a better place than what he knew growing up.

Mark was dark-haired, thin, wiry, and every bit as full of piss and vinegar as the rest of his cohorts.

When the sun was about half above the horizon, someone asked who Kezar Stadium was named after. Nobody knew. Mark suggested that we invent a legend. "Danko Kezar!" he exclaimed. "Greatest Niner that ever was!"

"Came over from Poland in 1938," quipped someone from down the bar.

"They know him as 'The Polish Jerry Rice!'" shouted Mark.

Someone else invented an impressive rushing statistic for Danko Kezar. Every 30 minutes or so, the bar would break into a spirited, spontaneous toast to our newly invented hero. People who hadn't been there earlier would inquire as to who Danko Kezar was, and would be subjected to a barrage of replies. "Came over in 1938!" "Greatest Niner that ever was." "The Polish Jerry Rice!" Only one older man called "Bullshit!" The rest of the crowd grinned, added their own bits to the

story, and chimed in when the next toast came around.

Charlotte was sassy, loud, and easily the most charming woman in the bunch. She carried herself with confidence, going drink for drink with the crowd even though she weighed 30 pounds less than anyone else in the bar. At first glance, Charlotte was a pool shark who could enter a cussing contest and give any sailor a run for his money. But beneath the hard shell was a lady. Sharp, bright, talkative, outgoing. A genuinely fun gal who could sand off her rough edges on short notice and become someone your mother would adore if you brought her home to meet the family on Thanksgiving. I laughed as I thought of something my mother had always told me: "You're never going to meet a nice girl in a bar!" It would have been fun to bring Charlotte around and explain to Mom that not only had I met her in a bar, but I'd met her in a bar at 6 a.m.

At about 8:30, Charlotte couldn't find her cigarettes. Off to the side of her beer was an empty box of Camels. She looked at the box in disgust, remarking that it was full two hours earlier. Not long thereafter she launched into a tirade, accusing her bar companions of smoking all her cigarettes.

Michael got Dan's attention and flagged him down for a pack of Camels. Then, in a polite, humble manner, he asked me if I could spot him a few dollars. Remembering my younger days, and how important it was to impress the women in the crowd, I handed him three crisp one-dollar notes. Cigarettes were \$5. I saw Michael reach into his wallet and find it empty. After hesitating a bit, he reached into the farthest corner of his wallet and pulled out a two-dollar bill. He looked at it long and hard, as if it held some significance. I took out another two dollars and told him to keep his special bill. Michael looked happy. Charlotte had her cigarettes. Dan was busy pouring drinks. The bar was once again at peace, and I was left with the comfortable feeling that one gets after dropping a handful of change into the piggy bank of good karma.

9:30 a.m. Three beers into the morning, I remembered the adage "Beer after liquor, never sicker.... Liquor after beer, you're in the clear." I shifted gears and ordered a whiskey as Michael described a dream of using his education to better the world. Part of me saw a capable young man who could very well achieve his goal. The other half saw unbridled idealism, unaware of the pitfalls and treachery of the political machine.

Somewhere around the end of my whiskey, Michael reached back into his wallet and took out the \$2 bill. "I want you to take this, put it in your wallet, and forget about it," he instructed. He added that someone had given him the \$2 note in the same way, with orders to part with it only when a good deed was involved. I refused at first, but he insisted. As he watched intently, I stuffed the \$2 bill in my wallet. It sits there to this day.

By 11 a.m., I'd put down four pints and a whiskey. The temptation to stick around was there, but the morning was long in the tooth. New people had drifted in, but I saw little interest in profiling people who were drinking in a bar at lunchtime. Mark, Charlotte, Michael, and their friends were still going strong, but it was time for me to head home. Dan was seated at the other side of the horseshoe bar. I shook hands with him and told him I'd had a great time. He returned the handshake, looked me in the eye, and hit me with an infectious grin as he said, "And you were planning on going to the coffee shop...." □